

us the question is not whether Colonel Baker sent in his papers, or did not send in his papers, but what ought to be done in his case now that his retirement from the Service has been decided on.

In accordance with the verdict of a jury, Mr. Justice Brett has awarded what he, as an impartial English judge, doubtless deemed a full punishment for the offence committed, namely, the personal punishment of imprisonment, and the cash fine of £500. Had he, with all the evidence before him, inflicted a fine of £5000, we should have known that this sum was in his judgment a penalty fitted to the case, but he has not done so. On the contrary he has deliberately decided, and in terms showing but slight sympathy with the accused, that the offence merited a pecuniary fine of £500 and no more, and yet men, sufficiently dead to all feeling of justice, and maddened with hysterical prejudices, were to be found who cried for the dismissal of Colonel Baker from Service, or, at least, for his being mulcted of the value of his commission, if permitted to send in his resignation, and they have got their demand. All this is very weak, unjust, and immoral. Colonel Baker may be termed a poor man, and where is he to find funds to pay this five hundred pounds, and the heavy costs of the prosecution, except from the proceeds of the value of his commission? and on what principle of English justice can a man, tried and punished by one court, be again, for the same offence, tried and punished by another, and that the very body to benefit by his second condemnation.

When Mayor the (so called) Honourable Walter Harbore had to quit the Service for card-sharping, there was no trial at Croydon, no law costs, no £500 fine: and yet when the Secretary of State for War very properly sought to make this man feel in his pocket the result of his disreputable offence, and declared that no particle of his commission money should be handed over to him, he found that, though practically just, his decision was immediately questioned as illegal; and so this utter and unmitigated black sheep may yet receive the full value of his commission, both regulation and over-regulation, for the law is stronger than individual sentiment, and the rules under which men agree to live together in a community are of far greater importance than the violence done to an individual deprived of gratifying a morbid yearning for Lynch-law.

If this is to be so, there can be no doubt Colonel Baker must receive the price of his commission if an English sentiment of justice is to be protected at all from the daily increasing tendency to rowdism, which the middle-class of Englishmen, even more than the lower, is now unfortunately displaying.

In the South of Devon there still lives a well-to-do farmer who once sat on a jury at Exeter, where a man was tried for some minor offence. "What is your opinion, Sir?" said the foreman, "Nonsense!" said one here to; "there's no doubt about it." "Well, Sir, and what do you think?" was the rejoinder. "Thing I why, damn ut, hang 'er, rob 'a poor varmer?" But the culprit was not hanged, neither can Colonel Baker be permitted to incur ruin for an offence which has been already amply avenged by the laws of his country.—*Broad Arrow*, 14 August.

The evidence is daily growing stronger that England is determined to make the Margery murder a pretext for seizing and annexing Burmah. Large bodies of British Indian troops are concentrating on the frontier,

The Pieri Rifle.

AN ECONOMICAL AND SERVICEABLE WEAPON.

Lieut. Col. Bacon, the statistical officer at the Rideau Rifle range, has, during the time the competitions have been in course of progress, had a most ingeniously constructed rifle, the invention of a Major Pieri of the French army on exhibition. The weapon, which is light looking and handsome, is of what is termed in our shooting phraseology, a small bore, with sights fitted after the style of those on the Snider Enfield, but it has the advantage over the latter by having the degrees of elevation for the different ranges marked on the side of the flap nearest the eye of the person firing. The piece is sighted, we believe, up to 1000 yards; but its inventor claims it will send a projectile a distance of 3,000 yards. The barrel is grooved most wonderfully, and at the breech, where the cartridge is placed, in a chamber which is perfectly smooth, and the bullet has to proceed a short distance through it before it enters the grooves. This obviates, it is stated, the violent recoil common to many grooved barrels. As for cartridges, it may be mentioned that they cost one-fifth of a penny less than the Snider Enfield do; this is a considerable item of saving in one's expenditure in ammunition. A small sum in arithmetic proved that out of \$249 75 spent in 9,990 rounds of cartridge during the last three day's competition a sum of £8 6s. 6d. sterling would have been saved had the Pieri rifle been used. The ammunition possesses also another advantage, inasmuch as it will keep for any length of time and in any climate; it may be sunk in water and when wanted for use it will be found quite fit, as it is perfectly impervious to wet, there being an inner wrapper of caoutchouc as well as the ordinary one, a sort of inner skin in fact. The advantages of it may be thus briefly stated:—the inventor to obviate the disadvantages that arise from the oscillations produced by pressing with the forefinger on a trigger placed underneath the stock, conceived the idea of placing the mechanism to release the plunger, or striker, on top of the stock, and in a line with the axis of the bore. To discharge the gun, the firer presses with his thumb on a thumb piece placed in this position, and protected against an accidental injury or blow, by two wings formed by the rear ends of the breach shoe. It results from this arrangement that instead of the muzzle of the gun being pulled downwards and to the right by the action of the forefinger on the trigger, as in the present system, the pressure of the thumb on the upper surface of the stock, and in a line with the axis, establishes a perfect equilibrium at the line of firing. In addition to this advantage, the position of the trigger on the top of the stock has enabled the inventor to simplify the breech mechanism so greatly that the Pieri system is composed of seven simple and strongly formed parts, connected together by a single screw, on removing which the whole mechanism can, at once be taken to pieces. We have heard from the best authority that the cost of the gun, with which any barrel or cartridge can be used, is only the exceedingly small sum 33 francs (\$5.60), made in the Government small arms factories. The great advantages of the Pieri system can, of course, be only brought to light by actual trial, but among the many systems and arrangements now under consideration we certainly think this deserves especial attention. It is expected that a trial of it will be made to-day. Prac-

tical riflemen are unanimous in their approval of the principle, and if the trial proves satisfactory, its cheapness will make it exceedingly popular.—*Times*.

A Hopeless Case.

The other evening two Irishmen, new to the country, and belonging to the better class of emigrants, arrived at Toledo late in the evening and stopped at the Island House. They were shown to a room far up in the building, the gas lighted, and they were left alone. The weather was hot, the windows open, and the two gentlemen sat down to enjoy a chat. Soon, attracted by the light and the prospect of a square meal, a troop of the hungriest of hungry mosquitoes born down upon the ill fated Hibernians. They fought and bled, but the enemy constantly received reinforcements, and the travellers were in despair. The clerk was summoned, and asked agonizingly:

"Is there no defence against these blood-thirsty hounds?"

He told the travelers that if they put out their gas and closed their windows they would experience relief. They acted on the suggestion, and placed themselves between the sheets. Just as they began to doze a lightning bug, which had strayed into the room, caught the eye of one of the travelers. He roused his companion with a punch. "Jamie, Jamie, it's no use. Here's one of the craturse searchin' for us wid a lantern."

Owing to the rain fall of seven and one half inches within a few days, great damage is announced in the Central Provinces of Japan, farms being flooded, houses and bridges demolished, and upwards of \$2,000,000 in produce destroyed. There were also a great many lives lost.

The Russian Government on the 7th September received a telegram from General Kauffman, commanding the Russian expedition against the Kokhand rebels, announcing that a battle was fought on the 24th ult., when the Russians completely defeated the rebels, numbering 30,000, who occupied a fortified position which General Galoortchoff stormed. The enemy was pursued and many of them were killed and drowned in the Arvia Paris River. Several guns and a quantity of other war material were captured. The losses of the Russians were inconsiderable. General Kauffman will continue his advance against the rebels when his means of transportation arrives from Khodfend.



DEPARTMENT OF

MILITIA AND DEFENCE.

Tenders will be received until Noon on the
15th Day of September, 1875

For the supply of

FORAGE CAPS,

Also for the manufacture from Government Cloth of such

JACKETS, TROUSERS and GREAT COATS As may be required for militia purposes during the years of 1875-6.

Particulars may be seen and further information will be given on application.

The Department will not be bound to accept the lowest or any tender.

W. POWELL,

Colonel Adjutant-General of Militia
Ottawa, August 17, 1875.