

We will correct. We will be able to remove the nuisance without defacing the shrine. To the end—I speak it with all due confidence with which men can speak—we will remain in unity. The unity of my government is now established. The unity of yours has never been seriously threatened, and God grant it never may."

MISCELLANEOUS.

Russian diplomacy, says the "Liberty," has demanded, at Constantinople, the co-proprietorship of the keys of the Chapel of the Holy Sepulchre, which for centuries have been confided to the special care of the French Consul at Jerusalem. It is generally believed that this new demand of Russia has been made with the object of weakening French influence in the East, for in a country in which forms are considered of great importance, the consent of France would signify the abdication of the preponderating part she has hitherto played in the East.

THE NAVY OF NORTH GERMANY.—According to an official report lately published at Berlin, the North German fleet now consists of 55 ships and 36 gunboats, the former carrying 405 guns and the latter 68. Among the steamers are three frigates (the King William, the Frederick Charles, and the Crown Prince), with 55 guns, and one iron-clad boat (the Arminius and the Prince Adalbert), with seven guns, five turreted corvettes with 140 guns, five smoothdecked corvettes, with 68 guns, two avisos, with six guns, eight gunboats of the first class, with 24 guns, 14 of the second class, with 28 guns and the royal yacht Grille, with four boats attached. The sailing ships are—three frigates (the Gefion, the Thetis, and the Niobe), with 112 guns, three brigs, with 38 guns, the Barbarossa, with nine guns, and three harbour vessels. There are also 32 sloops, to each of which are attached from two to four boats armed with guns.

BRANDING IN THE ARMY.—A recent sentence of Court Martial held in London, England, ordering Sergeant Borrowdale of the Marines to be branded, is being discussed in the late English papers. We take the following from the London Telegraph:—"The sentence of the Court Martial on Sergeant Borrowdale, R. M., for falsifying books in the pay office has been carried into effect by his stripes being torn off before all the men of the division. He was then marched round the parade, the drums and fifes playing the "Rogues's March." He was then removed to Cold-Bath fields, to be branded with the letters "B.C." and undergo twelve months' imprisonment. Sergeant Borrowdale's defalcations amounted to only 49 shillings. He had 15 years' good character, and had been 10 years a non-commissioned officer. The following comment upon the sentence appears in the editorial column of the same journal:—"When civilians denounce the barbarity of branding with the indelible mark "B.C." such soldiers as have been convicted of offences against military law, the usual answer is that in no other way can culprits be prevented from re-enlisting after being dismissed from the service. The latest case is in itself a refutation of that special pleading. Sergt. Borrowdale has not only been drummed out of the service and sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment, but also branded with the fatal letters, for falsifying his accounts to the amount of forty-nine shillings; but he had not yet "re-enlisted."

He had gained the mark of good conduct for fifteen years, and had been a non-commissioned officer for ten. And yet now, convicted of his first offence, he bears the stigma of an indelible disgrace, which no penitence, no irreproachable behavior in the future, can erase or redeem. In drawing attention to this sentence, we again protest against the barbarous practice. It is useless to say that, without the system of branding, offenders could not be prevented from re-enlisting. They could. Nothing could be simpler than to identify them by the same means as old offenders against civil law are identified in gaol—by photography. Let their photographs be sent to all the recruiting sergeants and inspecting officers in the kingdom. For retaining the disgraceful practice, there is not a shadow of excuse; it is nothing but a remnant of military barbarity."

GOVERNOR HINKS IN TROUBLE.—Governor Hinks has got into trouble with the Congregationalists of the West Indies. In some official document addressed to the Colonial office the governor expressed the opinion that the Congregational missionaries had done a great deal of harm by getting up causeless and mischievous excitement among the negroes. An explanation being asked, he declined to give any, on the ground that the document referred to, being a despatch to the Colonial Office, was privileged. The congregationalists, it is said, have appealed to the Colonial Secretary of State, insisting that Mr. Hinks shall either prove or retract the offensive statement. The affair has given rise to a good deal of talk in the Island, many urging that a Governor should not be allowed to write calumnious statements about public bodies as individuals without being held accountable therefor.—an opinion with which most sensible people will agree.

BLAIR AND THE FENIANS.—One of the New York Democratic papers, in the Fenian interest, omits General Blair's name from its Presidential ticket, only giving Seymour's; and thereby hangs a tale. During the closing years of the war the St. Louis Fenians gave a dinner, to which General Blair and several other Federal Army officers then in that city were cordially invited. The General came when the dinner was nearly over, somewhat in the same condition that Canning was in when he entered the House of Commons, and confidently told a friend that he could "see two speakers in the chair," and leaning up against the door addressed the company as follows: "How are you Finegans I hear that you are going to invade Ireland. Glad to hear it. Hope you'll sink on the road." The gallant General then made a hasty retreat followed by the howls and curses of the Company, and ever since has been in the black books of the "Brotherhood."

UTILITY OF BEARDS.—There are more solid inducements for wearing the beard than the mere improvement of a man's personal appearance, and the cultivation of such an aid to the every day diplomacy of life. Nature combining, as she never fails to do, the useful with the ornamental, provides us with a far better respirator than science could ever make, and one that is never so hideous to wear as that black seal upon the face that looks like a passport to the realms of suffering and death. The hair of the mustache not only absorbs the moisture and miasma of the fogs, but it strains the air from the

dust and soot of our great cities. It acts also in the most scientific manner, by taking heat from the warm breath as it leaves the chest, and supplying it to the cold air taken in. It is not only a respirator, but with the beard entire, we are provided with a comforter as well; and these are never left at home, like umbrellas, and all such appliances, whenever they are wanted. Moffat and Livingstone, the African explorers, and many other travellers, say that in the night no wrapper can equal the beard. The remarkable thing is, too, that the beard like the hair of the head, protects against the heat of the sun; but more than this, it becomes moist with perspiration, and then by evaporation cools the skin. A man who accepts this protection of nature may face the rudest storm and the hardest winter. He may go from the hottest room into the coldest air without any dread; and we verily believe he might almost sleep in a morass with impunity; at least his chance of escaping a terrible fever would be better than his beardless companion's.

A SAMPLE OF ARMY ADMINISTRATION.—A detachment of the 80th foot, numbering some 190 men, recently received orders at Aldershot, where the regiment was located, to prepare for departure to Leeds. Any ordinary mortal would have imagined that the railway was the best means by which to travel to the town named—the distance from Farnham Station (near Aldershot) being about 220 miles. The journey could have been accomplished in half a day easily; but the Government authorities, whose ideas must be inspired from some immortal source, conceived the brilliant notion of conveying the 190 soldiers to their destination through a long sea voyage, varied by railway trips. On Wednesday in last week the soldiers were taken from Farnham to Portsmouth by rail. Thence they were embarked, with all their luggage, in a troop-ship, and taken round Land's-End along the Welsh coast, by Holyhead to Liverpool. They were then transferred to the railway station and conveyed to Leeds, arriving here greatly fatigued at midnight on Saturday. The distance travelled in about 600 miles, and occupied four days; the luggage had to be loaded and unloaded seven times; the rations provided on board ship were, as we hear from one of the soldiers, very inadequate; and the inconvenience suffered by the men appears to be very much felt by them. Of course the government officials may have some good and satisfactory reasons for this apparently extraordinary and unduly expensive procedure; but until we know them, the claim set up for an efficient army administration cannot be received.—Leeds Daily Express.

MILITIA APPOINTMENTS.—We learn that Brevet Lt. Colonel W. B. Robinson has been appointed District Major, or inspecting field Officer, for the Southern District of New Brunswick, which will include St. John and adjoining Counties; that Lt. Colonel A. C. Otty, at present in command of the St. John Volunteer Battalion and Deputy Adjutant General, has been appointed to the district comprising the Northern Counties; and Lt. Col. Inches of Charlotte has been appointed over the Western District. We also understand that Captain John Hewitson, of New York County Volunteers, has been appointed Paymaster for the whole Province. Since a law has been enacted providing for these offices, we do not know that better appointments could have been made.—S John Paper.