

THE BLUE RIDGE RAILROAD.

We are informed by good authority that the progress of the work on the Blue Ridge Road is very satisfactory. In consequence of the limited amount of funds at the disposal of the Company, after the adjournment of the session of the Legislature, the grading of the road in South Carolina and Tennessee was suspended, except only on the embankments at Seneca River and the Whitner Hill, and in two very deep cuts between Washington and the Stump House Tunnel. It was very important that the work on these embankments and cuts should be continued, so as to give time for the rocks to settle, and for the cuts to be exposed, in order that if there should be any caving of the slopes of the cuts it might occur, and the road bed be cleared before the time for laying the track.

The contractors for the bridge masonry, over Seneca River, and Twenty six Mile Creek, who were required to suspend work, but the work at Seneca was restricted within the means of the Company. The bridge or viaduct, across the valley of Twenty six Mile Creek is the heaviest and most costly structure on the road. It is five piers which are required, three are finished, the fourth is partly done, and the foundations of the fifth are nearly completed. The contractor has a large quantity of rock dressed and prepared for the construction of the bridge. The foundation of the fifth pier is completed. Two abutments and five piers are required for the Seneca bridge—one abutment, (a very heavy work) and two piers are finished—the other three piers and one abutment are under way. The progress of the work at the upper end of the road, that of the masonry required more than three thousand six hundred cubic yards are finished, and only about nine hundred cubic yards remain to be done.

The future of the Legislature, at its last session, to give additional aid to the Company, made it necessary also to suspend work on all the tunnels except the Stump House Tunnel. But so far as the present season's expenditure of work is concerned, the construction of the road, it has been "in the path," the bugbear with which the adversaries of the road have sought to frighten the sympathies of the people of the State from the enterprise. It was constantly objected that the completion of this tunnel was physically impracticable, or at least that it could only be finished at enormous and indefinite cost and time. The progress of the work has triumphantly refuted this objection. During the month of November, one hundred and thirty-five feet of heading was driven in the tunnel. By the requirement of the Company, the force of the contractors was reduced by the dismissal of nearly two-fifths of the workmen. Two hundred and seventeen feet were driven in the month of April. If Messrs. Humbert, Hitchcock & Co., the contractors, had been permitted to work a full force, they would have made good their efficient assertion, and having done so, they would have had no objection to the Legislature at the last session, that in sixteen months from that time they could complete the Stump House Tunnel. On the first of this month, three thousand seven hundred feet of heading had been driven, leaving only one thousand one hundred feet to be done. The engineer in charge computes that even with the force recently more reduced, four thousand five hundred and fifty feet will be excavated by the first of November next, leaving only thirteen hundred feet more of heading to be done.

The Company has acted judiciously in applying the limited means which they possess, to the more difficult and costly part of the road. There is no difficulty in obtaining contractors for grading, and that part of the construction can be rapidly done. The progress which has been made in the most costly and difficult part of the road, has been very gratifying to its advocates, and should temper the opposition of those who, from misapprehension of difficulties and expense, are indisposed to continuing the enterprise.—Carolinaian.

DECKED.—Our village was shocked on Tuesday afternoon, the 14th inst., by the sad announcement that Caro Young was drowned. When first heard, of course there was hope. But that which was only a rumor proved to be a melancholy reality. Caro was drowned in the White River, Prof. Young, was engaged at College, and the mother employed about domestic concerns, and her little brother and sister were at school. Little Caro, about 6 years old, got separated from the mother in the yard and after awhile was missed. Immediately search was made. Runners were sent here and there. At last a little boat was discovered floating on the surface of an artificial pool in the garden. With the child in it, the boat was overturned, and in a moment the body was found, but life was gone. All efforts to restore her to life proved unavailing. How she got into the pool and how she had remained there alive, has not yet been ascertained for an hour, or more, before she was found.

DEATH IS ALWAYS AN UNWELCOME VISITOR, but when he comes and strikes down suddenly and without warning the young and vigorous, increased sorrow to the wound inflicted is more keenly felt. But are not our children the children of our Father? And shall he not take them as He will?—Dun West Carolinaian.

THE LAW OF MARRIAGE IN SOUTH CAROLINA.—In the Boston Courier of June 4, some observations are made on the law of marriage in South Carolina. It is supposed to be, in some sort, peculiar, and it is remarked that "South Carolina is a free State in this respect, emphatically." It is true, that in that State the presence of a clergyman is not necessary to the validity of a marriage, and that it is sufficient that the parties consent to the same in the presence of witnesses. Such is the law of Scotland, as will be seen in the elaborate judgment of Sir William Scott, in Dalrymple vs. Dalrymple, 2 Haggard's Consistory Reports, and, until the Council of Trent, it was the general law of Europe, that a contract per verba in presenti (in presence of witnesses) constituted a valid marriage without the intervention of a Priest.

But if in South Carolina the road to matrimony is easy and inviting, there is no passage out of it but through the portals of the grave. An instance of divorce has never been known in South Carolina. It has been authoritatively settled that no judicial tribunal in the State has authority to declare a divorce of either party on any cause whatsoever. If the power exists at all it is in the Legislature, which has hitherto never thought proper to exercise the power.

Further, it has been determined by the Courts of South Carolina, that the marriage contract in that State is indissoluble by the sentence of any Court in a sister State, so as to affect the rights or condition of the parties in South Carolina. It will be seen, then, that it is much easier to tie the knot than to untie it. With rare exceptions, the ceremony of marriage is, in fact, performed by a clergyman; and the indissolubility of the marriage contract is not only part of the law, but is the fixed and habitual sentiment of the community on the subject of divorce. The policy of the State is probably peculiar; but I suppose there is no matter of law, morals or politics, upon which more perfect unanimity prevails, and has always prevailed.

PUBLIUS.

THE PIRK'S PEAK GOLD MINES.—The Herald has the following with reference to the Kansas Gold Mania: Recent accounts from Pike's Peak report some very astonishing discoveries of gold. This is, no doubt, the first time that the prospectors to arrest the stampede of the starving army of returning adventurers. None but the most credulous fools will pay any attention to these transparent fictions of from fifty to five hundred dollars a day. We think, however, that it would be well for the government to detail a competent officer or two from the army of Utah to Pike's Peak, for the purpose of obtaining a reliable report of the real character of these diggings. An exploration of this sort might still be made many simpletons a long and worse than useless journey, and be useful to the government in many other respects.

THE INDEPENDENT PRESS. ABBEVILLE, S. C.

W. A. LEE, EDITOR. Friday Morning, June 24, 1859.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

An advertisement in reference to the letting out of the Building Contract of the New Episcopal Church, has been received, but owing to the delay in the reception of the specifications its publication has been deferred until the next week.

See the advertisement of Messrs. Gray & Robertson. These gentlemen are constantly receiving and keep constantly on hand, at their well known establishment on Granite Range, all the latest and most fashionable varieties of the season.

See the card of Mr. GEORGE M. CALHOUN, Warehouse and Commission Merchant, of Augusta, Ga., who is prepared to attend promptly to all orders for the sale of produce, and to make liberal advances on consignments. Mr. CALHOUN is a native of our District, and is well known to our citizens, and he trusts that by a strict attention to business, to merit a continuance of the liberal public patronage which he has received during the past year. We take pleasure in commending him to the public.

Read the advertisement of a lost dog, and other advertisements.

See the change in the advertisement of SAMPSON'S Liver Invigorator.

We are requested to call attention again to the Libertarianism of W. P. BOVY.

For the purpose of furnishing our usual quantity of reading matter, in the press of our advertising, we publish an advertising extra twice weekly.

RELIGIOUS NOTICE.

Bishop DAVIS will officiate in the Episcopal church on Sunday, The Corner Stone of the new church will be laid on Monday morning at 10 o'clock. Several addresses will be delivered. Services this day (Friday) at 10 A. M., and 8 P. M.; also to-morrow at the same hours; the public are invited to attend.

PURCHASE OF CUBA.

Information alleged to have been received at Washington recently from Madrid, of an altogether reliable character, shows that however desirable it may be for the United States to acquire Cuba, there is no prospect whatever of such a consummation nor is there any probability of the negotiation of a commercial treaty between Spain and this country.

DEBOW'S REVIEW.

The June number of this valuable Journal has been received. The present number of the Review closes the twenty-sixth volume. A new series will begin with the July number, and new subscribers will be entered from that time. The main office of the Review is located at New Orleans, but the branch office at Washington City is still continued. Terms of the Review, \$5 per annum. The work has been greatly enlarged and improved.

CORRESPONDENTS.

Our readers will find some beautiful lines on the death of Alexander the Great, upon our first page. They are from the pen of an esteemed contributor to whom we have been indebted before for occasional favors, and whose contributions are always welcome.

Our friend "Bayonet" charges in the real Piedmontese style, and the "Retired Private" will have to look to his equipments, and fall into the line of battle again.

We have various other contributions which will appear in good time.

LITERARY NOTICES.

The June numbers of "Godley's Lady's Book," and "Arthur's Home Magazine," have been received. They are, as usual, beautifully illustrated, and contain all the novelties and attractions of the season.

The Evakine Collegiate Recorder for June comes to us in a new dress, and presents quite an improved appearance. It is now a very handsome Magazine, and does credit to the typographical art at Due West. The Magazine is under the control of the Senior Class, of the College, and each number contains contributions which would do credit to any literary institution in the country.

MEXICO.

Late advices from Mexico state that the intrigues in the capital have resulted in an attempt on the part of the clergy to overthrow Miramon and replace Zuloaga, the initiator of the present revolution. The attempt, however, was unsuccessful, and a number of the priests have been sent to Vera Cruz. This attempt presents a new phase in the revolutionary movement, and must lead to further complications. The struggle hitherto has been between the people on one side and the clergy and the army on the other. The army placed Miramon in power, and he had heretofore represented both priest and soldier; and now the quarrel of these last adds a new element of discord to the strife.

In the meantime our Government is strengthening the Gulf Squadron, which will soon comprise 15 vessels mounting 228 guns. We have recognized the Constitutional Government of President Juarez, and may find it necessary for the protection of the interests of our citizens to act that party by temporary occupation of Vera Cruz and the other Gulf ports.

THE SACRED PANORAMA.

We had the pleasure during the past week of witnessing this beautiful Panorama of the Life of Christ, which was upon exhibition at this place on Monday and Tuesday last, under the charge of Mr. GEO. B. MITCHELL, the manager. The Panorama consists of 39 pictures painted in the highest style of art, and illustrating the most important events in the life of the Saviour, from the Annunciation to the Ascension. Many of the paintings are copies from the world renowned pictures by the Old Masters—as the "Annunciation," by MURILLO; "The Marriage Feast of Cana," by PAUL VERONESE; "The Transfiguration," by RAFFAEL; "Christ Healing the Sick," by WEST; "The Last Supper," by DA VINCI. These are copied by the eminent Artists, KYLE, BOVY, and DALLAS, who have added to the collection many original paintings by themselves of superior merit.

The Exhibition is well worthy of the high commendations which it has received, and whilst diffusing a taste for the fine arts, cannot fail to convey the most elevated and lasting impressions of the sacred scenes, which it is designed to illustrate. It ministers to the gratification of old and young, and needs only to be seen to be appreciated. We take pleasure in commending it to the attention of the public generally.

A Landscape, by Washington Allston, was lately advertised for sale in Philadelphia.

COURT OF EQUITY.

Our Court adjourned on Saturday last, after a busy session occupying the entire week.—The Chancellor sat early and late, but failed to clear the Docket, and in view of the unfinished business proposed an extra term; but in the opinion of the Bar, this was not demanded by the public interests. Several very important cases came up for adjudication, and these were argued with great ability and learning.—Among these was the case of the American Bible Society vs. W. P. NOLAN, the Executor of Joux BELLA, deceased, and others; which involved the validity of the devise and bequests of the large estate of the testator, to the Bible Society, the Tract Society, the Presbyterian Board of Publication, and the validity of the devise and bequests to the widow. The case was thoroughly and elaborately argued in behalf of the Society, by Mr. McCLEARY, of Charleston, and Mr. PERRY; LY MESSRS. THOMSON & FINE, on behalf of the widow; and by Mr. McGOWAN, on behalf of the next of kin.

The question whether the English Statute of Mortmain were of force here, the doctrine of equitable conversion, the validity of devise to an alien widow, and other interesting questions were thoroughly discussed.

Another interesting case, and which was argued at length and very elaborately by Messrs. NOLAN, WILSON, JONES and MCGOWAN, was that of HUBBARD & STOKES, vs. COCHRAN, which involved the settlement of an intricate partnership account, and the question of the validity of an unrecorded mortgage, made by one of the partners in derogation of the rights of the other.

In the case of the application by the heirs of the late Dr. S. V. CARL, for the sale of the large estate of the deceased, the Court deferred the granting of the order of sale, until the appointment of a Receiver who should enter into the proper security. To grant the order at present would be to vest the management of the estate in the Commissioner, in contravention to the law which restricts his jurisdiction to decedent estates, which do not exceed \$5,000.

In the case of the creditors of Haddon, Slager & Co., an order was passed, directing the Commissioner to marshal the assets, and take proof of the various individual and partnership claims, reserving all questions of priority of lien between the various creditors, attaching and otherwise.

The business of the term was transacted in a manner highly satisfactory to all engaged, and his Honor paid a high compliment to the Bar for the elaborate preparation and great ability with which the various cases were argued.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

The Constitution of a late date denies the assertion made by a correspondent of the New York Herald in that paper of the 8th instant, that "recent investigations in the Post Office Department lead to the belief that that Department loses one million of dollars a year by the use of counterfeit and washed postage stamps." It states that, on inquiry at the Department, they find that no investigation has been had which would tend to create the slightest suspicion that any such starting and wholesale frauds had been committed. But on the contrary, from the careful investigations which have been made by that Department, it is proved, conclusively, that though occasional attempts are made to use canceled and washed stamps, such attempts are rarely successful, and no considerable loss to the revenue of the Government has resulted from this abuse. The Department has had no cause to believe that the counterfeiting process spoken of by the Herald has ever been attempted. On the other hand, the sale of postage stamps has been continually increasing from year to year, which could not be so if the statements contained in the Herald were correct.

CULTIVATION OF TEA.

Mr. ROBERT FORRESTER, well known, both in this country and elsewhere, as the successful cultivator of a large plantation of Tea seeds in China, has during the past year been engaged in the capacity of agent for the Agricultural Division of the U. S. Patent Office, in order to procure and forward to this country a collection of the most valuable Tea seeds of that region. He has returned to London and reports his labors as having been very successful. All the cases containing the seed, with the exception of one which is now on the way, have been received by that Bureau. It was the original intention of the Department, that he was to visit this country for the purpose of superintending the propagation of these plants, as he had great experience in their culture; but the Department having decided his services to be unnecessary, he was written to that effect.

THE COURT OF EQUITY.

The Lancaster Ledger publishes our recent editorial upon this subject, and in connection with it, makes the following remarks: "There is much practical good sense contained in the above. The proceedings in the Court of Equity are more orderly than proceedings in the Law Court, it is true in the main; but the fact that the remedy, when administered in the former, is more effectual and less liable to interruptions, gives it a decided preference over the Law Court in all cases where they have a concurrent jurisdiction. Clients, who after a victory in a law court, have had their remedies overruled and their calculations upset by what is called a Bill in Equity, will understand and no doubt be ready to give their opinion. But the proceedings in Equity are not always the most costly, as is intimated above in the settlement of large estates.—In all sales made by Executors and Administrators, the latter are required to pay ten per cent upon the aggregate amount of all such sales for collecting and paying out, when the Court of Equity charges but one or two per cent (according to the size of the estate) for the same services. In sales of large estates, therefore, this difference in the commissions, is a matter of considerable consequence to the legatees.

We are aware that at the Court of Equity is unpopular among the people, and we have heard men, who claim to be well informed, say that it ought to be abolished. We are not well enough versed in law matters to say what would be the consequence if our Legislators entertained similar convictions, and were to act upon them. We are constrained to express the belief, however, that such a course would result in a great national grievance. We believe that as this Court becomes better understood, the ill-defined popular objections to it, will pass away. The character of its proceedings compared with the idea of right and justice, which the people desire to see applied to every case. The Law Court is necessarily confined to general principles, and in the application of these, particular cases occur, which the Law Court and Jury, bound as they are to decide according to law and evidence, are powerless to give.

NEWBERRY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Society will hold its annual meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, the 20th and 21st of July, at 11 A. M., on Wednesday, and at 10 A. M., on Thursday, at Newberry Court House. The Committee of Arrangements will herewith announce the precise time and place, and the Committee of Arrangements are Joseph S. REID, Daniel GOGGINS, John P. KINARD, Richard Chapman and Julius Smith.

THE EUROPEAN WAR.

The last advices from Europe which we publish in another column report a bloody battle between the Franco-Sardinian army and the Austrians, at the bridge of Magenta, and which has been attended with great losses on both sides. The forces engaged seem to have been about three hundred thousand men, and the total loss in killed, wounded and prisoners from thirty to forty thousand. The French claim a decisive victory, but later reports detract from the conclusiveness of their success. That the Austrians have been forced to retreat and to abandon Milan, seem to indicate that the French are entitled to all the consequences of a great victory; and that they will press with vigor the advantages which they have gained in but in keeping with the impetuosity of their character, and the necessities of their Emperor. It has been supposed that the Austrians will retire to a line of fortified posts, and maintain a defensive contest. This however would only prolong the contest, and the occupation of the peninsula by the French army. It would be equivalent to a defeat, and would seal the fate of Austrian supremacy in Italy.

With regard to the great question, whether the present war will extend beyond Italy, and involve the whole of Europe in a revolutionary contest, various opinions have been expressed in various quarters, but we have seen no recent indications to lead to any such conclusion. The French Emperor would seem to be too public to go beyond the assertion of Italian independence, and the European States will scarcely make a rigid adherence to the stipulations of the Treaty of Vienna, the basis of the only solution of the question of peace and war.

We annex the following additional items: MONSIEUR, June 19. The steamship Anglo-Saxon arrived at Quebec yesterday, with Liverpool dates to June 8. The Emperor Napoleon telegraphed the Empress Eugenie from Novara, June 4th, that a great victory had been won at the Bridge of Magenta, and placed the Emperor and Empress in a perilous and wounded. Paris was illuminated on the evening of the 4th.

MAGENTA, June 5.

Yesterday our army was under orders of march on Milan, across bridges thrown over the river Ticino at Turbigo. This operation was well executed, although the enemy, who had been ordered to retreat, made some of the most determined resistance. The road was narrow, and during two hours the Imperial Guard sustained, unsupported, the shock of the enemy's attack. In the meantime, Gen. McMahon, the British commander in chief, after a sanguinary conflict, repulsed the enemy at every point with a loss of about 2,000 men. The loss of the enemy is estimated at 5,000 in killed and wounded, and a number of Austrian prisoners remain in our hands.

The number of Austrian prisoners taken is about 7,000, and the whole number of the enemy placed hors de combat, about 20,000.—Three pieces of artillery and two flags have been captured from the Austrians. Our army is resting for the purpose of re-organizing.—Our loss 3,000 killed and wounded, and one piece of artillery captured by the Austrians.

MEMORABLE FRANCHISE, June 6. A. M. 3. An insurrection broke out in Milan. The Austrians have evacuated the town and castle in such haste as to leave behind them their treasures and military stores. Our army is encumbered with prisoners. We have won about 12,000 Austrians in our hands.

The London Times, of the 8th, says: "This hard fight is not yet decided, but the whole, the French and allies have the best of it."

The statement that Gen. Canrobert was mortally wounded, rests on rumor.

Austrian accounts from Vienna, dated June 6, state that there was a battle in Milan, 4th at Turbigo and Buffalora. That at first only two brigades of the First Corps were engaged, but they were subsequently reinforced, and in the afternoon the Third Corps took part in the action, which terminated in a victory.

FOREIGN NEWS.

In Liverpool, headstuffs were dull and declining. Consols 92 1/2 to 93 1/2.

In the battle, which occurred near Milan, the Austrians were defeated, with a loss of 25,000 killed, wounded and prisoners. The French lost 12,000. The Austrians have evacuated Milan.

The battle fought was at the town of Magenta. Napoleon's despatches claim a decisive victory, and say that he took 25,000 prisoners from the Austrians in a disabled condition. Three cannon, and two standards were captured. He estimated his own loss 3,000, but it was rumored in Paris that the French had lost from nine to twelve thousand.

The exact number of Austrians reported to be from 150,000 to 180,000 Austrians, and 100,000 to 130,000 French. The Austrian accounts differ, and speak of the battle with varying successes. It was still undecided on the night of the 6th June. Great losses on both sides are reported.

Gen. Hess commanded the Austrians, and Napoleon the French. On the receipt of the news, Paris was illuminated. Gen. Espinosa was killed. Canrobert was mortally wounded. Five French Marshals and six Generals were wounded. Gen. McMahon has been created Marshal, and Duke of Magenta and Baragony d'Ilhieres superadded by Forey. Four Austrian Generals and five staff officers were wounded.

Milan revolted and declared in favor of the King of Sardinia. The Austrians retired from Milan, but the French had not occupied it.

Later rumors detract from the French victory, and it is believed that Canrobert will follow the entrance of the French into Milan.

The Paris Bourse is active and higher.

Later from Europe.

The steamer Persia has arrived here with dates from Liverpool to the 11th inst. The sales of cotton for the week ending 23rd inst. were 38,000 bales, of which exporters took 1,000 and exporters 2,500. Middling had declined 1-1/2; lower grades declining to sell at 1/2 decline. The market closed difficult.

Consols 92 1/2 to 93 1/2. It is reported that the Prussian army will be mobilized, and Russia will see take part in the conflict. Negotiations for the passage of troops through Germany are progressing.

Garibaldi had beaten the Austrians at Breno. Five hundred Zouaves were killed. The Austrians lost 1,500; 1,200 taken prisoners. The battle lasted nine hours. The armies were preparing for another general engagement.

AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

YORKVILLE, S. C., June 3, 1859. To the President and Officers of the Bible Society in South Carolina: Gentlemen: As Agent of the American Bible Society, in and for the State of South Carolina, I beg leave to remind you that the State Bible Convention meets at Yorkville, on Tuesday night before the first Wednesday in August, it being the second day in the month. It is desirable that all the Bible Societies in the State should be represented. If you please have a meeting of your Executive Committee called at an early day, and appoint at least five delegates to the Convention; and urge them to attend, and come with brief report. All the railroads in the State have agreed to pass delegates to the Convention, and to free for one fare. There is an arrangement by the clergy-men are passed over the South Carolina Railroad for one fare when they are officially engaged. A committee of arrangements has been appointed by the Yorkville Bible Society, and ample provision will doubtless be made for all who may attend.—Those who live below Yorkville had better come up on the 1st, so as to be present on the 2d of August.

Important matters will be brought before the Convention. Please see that your Society is represented without fail. Yours truly, E. A. BOLLES.

WRITTEN FOR THE INDEPENDENT PRESS.

"A RETIRED PRIVATE" VS OUR MILITIA.

MR. EDITOR: In a late number of the Press over the signature of "A Retired Private," we have a communication, "A Voice from Penney's Creek," crying against our Military System. This we take to be a kind of response to some other of the same sort, which has been "strayed out" within a few months past. At least there seems to be a striking resemblance between it and some other we have seen in two marked particulars.—One is a perfect concurrence in point of venting spleen upon one of the oldest, and we think best, organizations of the State; the other consists in a total want of good reason, or valid argument, against the organization which seems to be the subject of such attack.

The gentleman is "old into hasty reflection" upon our Militia by an abortive attempt to have a voluntary drill, "one day too unfavorable for any one to turn out, and because the number of men was small and arms scarce he hastily concluded that the system is a complete 'humbug.'" Another is found in his "voice" through sympathy for the "quiet citizens of our State," who, poor fellows, are compelled to perform a forced duty "under a broiling sun," and then take the chances with Bull-faces, Blue-rum & Co., and give "business to our soldiers." In the mean time he places other sister States short of his own in various particulars, and forgets perhaps that they are all equal, if not superior, to ours in "conquering" Bull-head & Co., and giving "business to Soldiers."

Such are some of the objections which are presented against our Military system, which appear to us, to fall far short of substantial arguments. None of the evils, if there be any, either of an individual or public character, are pointed out, and we are led to no conclusion except that because men willfully neglect their respective military duties, and refuse to enforce the law, therefore, the whole system is a "humbug," and ought to be abolished. This is logic "with a vengeance," and if this is the standard by which the merits of any organization are judged, how will the Church of Christ, the temple of justice, and other organizations having in view the public good, escape the epithet of "humbug, nonsense," &c., since thousands identified with these fall far short of discharging their duties.

But we confess no surprise that "A Retired Private," "falls to see the good in us, or the benefit to be derived from our Military System," for who could either see or appreciate the good of anything, which they had endeavored to do so laboriously as friend "Private" has done the Million for a few years past. We see good in anything in proportion as we "stand square up to it," and not by "retreating" until we are too far "retired" to know where it is "of good report."

But friend "Private" objects because one of every ten cannot "go through the manual of arms correctly." We think his objection not valid, but give him credit for his liberality in giving a greater proportion than we could have asked. This, I venture the assertion, is much better than his class in English Grammar did in his school by days, and surely he would not pretend to deny the utility of this beautiful science, because one of ten, in his class could not have passed every sentence in Syntax "correctly."

The notion also, that men never learn anything from our system of Militia, is all a hoax, and is too strongly opposed by experience and observation, for us to think ourselves "redundant enough to swallow any such stuff."—They learn something, and would learn much more if they would lay off that feeling that makes all "amateurs" love idleness.

Besides, we are not one of those who entertain the opinion that there is less military spirit now in our State than formerly, and that the little military service rendered is a mere avoidance of the law.

But we believe, we know, that there is a strong prejudice against the system because it allows some men the privilege of doing duty or not, just as it is more or less agreeable to their feelings, while others who are more law abiding and better citizens, are required to be prompt. Now we do not care either to trouble our legislature on the subject; all we ask while the Military Law exists is, that instead of doing away with the fine for non-attendance, it be made more secure, and then we candidly believe so much grumbling would cease, and there would be fewer "retired privates."

We pass unnoticed our "private's" partiality for Military Schools, but will add, that while they are good enough in themselves, they evidently fall short of answering the purpose fully in a country like ours. We have not endeavored to present any of "the good to arise or the benefit to be obtained by our Military System," as these were matters that were discussed before friend "Private" had a being, and so far as we know, the reasons and arguments then offered stand good to the present day, and will stand until "A Retired Private" and his accomplice mount different hobbies.

Mr. Editor, we will not trespass any longer for the present, but will close by saying that whether the ladies, who favor us with their presence, smiles and beauty at our parades, approve of the Militia or not, we think them patriotic and sensible enough to know that it is a good mark of a good citizen to promptly obey the laws of his country, though he may not exactly approve of them. BAYONET.

WASHINGTON NEWS.

Advices received here by the last arrival from Europe, from a high and reliable source, state that the English government has not yet despaired of being able to arrest hostilities, and that she is strenuously laboring, through mediation, in conjunction with Prussia and other Powers, to bring about that result, and put an end to further hostilities.

The President is fully alive to the present complicated and perilous condition of Mexican affairs, and he is determined to do everything in his power to put Juarez government upon a firm footing. He believes that a further augmentation of our squadron in the Gulf of Mexico, and has instructed the Secretary of the Navy to send three additional vessels into those waters, which will increase the squadron to thirteen efficient ships. This looks like prompt and energetic action on our part.

Lord Lyons has addressed a note to the Secretary of State in reference to the slave trade portion of the Ashburton treaty. The treaty provides that each government shall maintain strict and equal vigilance on the coast of Africa, so that no slave trade should be carried on in the manner in which that arrangement on our part is carried out, and he takes occasion to announce to our government, that he has no objection to our carrying out on our part the eighth article of the treaty.

Recently received information from Madrid, of an altogether reliable character shows that, however desirable it may be for the United States to acquire Cuba, there is no probability of the negotiation of a commercial treaty between Spain and this country.

Letters have just been received here from our Minister at Berlin. He is decidedly of opinion, after a careful survey of affairs, that the war will extend beyond Italy and involve the whole of Europe. That while Prussia is determined to remain neutral, and preserve the status quo ante bellum, the smaller German Powers are averse to it, and manifest a strong desire to take part in the contest now going on. Whether Prussia will be able to maintain her position of neutrality and abstention from the contest, is extremely doubtful. The present aspect of affairs in Europe, he thinks, is perilous indeed. It is believed by many, notwithstanding the authoritative contradiction, that there is a secret treaty or understanding between France and Russia, and that should war continue it will shortly develop itself.

General Dodge, late Minister to Spain, has arrived here, and yesterday had an interview with the Secretary of State. The General speaks in glowing terms of the Spanish people, and especially of the Queen Mother, whom he considers to be a kind hearted, amiable person. In regard to the acquisition of Cuba, the General is decidedly in favor of our present Minister, he thinks, will be very popular; but whether he will be able to get Cuba by purchase or otherwise the dependent says not.

Among the many reports, official and private, which reached this city by the late steamer, one of the most interesting is one from the city of Rome. It is that His Holiness Pius the Ninth was virtually and in fact a prisoner of the French Army of Occupation in Rome. Some three or four Austrian spies, who were employed in Rome to obtain information of the feeling and disposition of the French troops there were arrested by Napoleon's officers, and held in confinement in the confinement of the French. The nature of their instructions would if possible be ascertained. Immediately after this affair General de Goyon, commander in chief of the French forces, ordered that the monks located in the monastery of Monte Mario, and in the building, in order that soldiers of his army should be accommodated in it. When the monks left Goyon ordered a battery of six guns to be placed on and around the place. It is thought that the Pope will not be allowed to leave Rome.

COMMUNICATED.

ENIGMA.

My 1, 2, 3, 4, is the name of a literary man. My 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, is the name of handsome lady. My 2, 4, 1, 5, is the name of an animal. My 4, 5, 9, is the name of a well known lady. My 5, 3, 6, 7, is a part of a ladies dress. My 6, 7, 8, is what we don't like to be. My 8, 7, 8, is a measure. My whole is the name of a Town.

HYMENEAL.

MARRIED, On Thursday, the 16th June, 1859, by Rev. Mr. Thompson, Mr. C. M. NIXON, D.D. to Miss LIZZIE WELLS, all of Abbeville District.

OBITUARY.

DIED, at Stony Point, Abbeville District, on the 8th of May, 1859, Mrs. ISABELLA E. SMITH, consort of the late Joel Smith, aged 54 years, 10 months, and 8 days.

Maternal bereavement in infancy placed Mrs. Smith until early womanhood under the (guardian ship) of an aunt of the Methodist persuasion, but not until September, 1843, did she marry her present husband, Mr. C. M. NIXON, whom she attached herself to the Presbyterian (Rock's) Church.