PASSES FROM THE ENGADIN.

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

REICHENAU, JULY 31.

It is difficult to understand why Veltliner wine, which is the staple beverage of the Engadin, is almost entirely unknown in England. Though it builds a sort of intermediate position between Burgundy and claret, it has a distinctive character of its own, and it is certainly exceedingly popular. In bouquet it is rather deficient; but its colour, dark though it be, is brilliant enough to charm the eye of the most critical connoisseur, and it has an unusually large amount of "body." It is grown on the slopes of the Val Tellina, above Sondrio, on the Italian side of the Bernina chain, and though there is as much difference between the vintages of different years as between Château Lafitte of 1865 and Château Lafitte of 1866, almost every variety possesses a delicate and characteristic flavour.

An English statesman to whom a wine merchant recommended some special claret as being an infallible cure for the gout once responded after trying it:—"That he was much obliged, but he infinitely preferred the gout," and it is a fact that wines which are pronounced by the faculty to be particularly wholesome are often also particularly nasty. But this is not the case with Veltliner. The doctors of the Engadin place the utmost faith in its tonic properties, and yet it is as agreeable a wine as need be wished for. At the inns the retail price is from 2fr. to 4fr. a bottle, but the very best quality is sold wholesale at the rate of 160fr. to 200fr. per cask containing 200 bottles, so that any enterprising wine merchant who might try the experiment of introducing it into England could probably afford to sell it at less than £1 a dozen, and make a fair profit withal. In the language of advertisements, it really "requires only to be known to be appreciated."

It is strange that, notwithstanding all the hotel building which is progressing in the Upper Engadine, nothing should have been done to make the Roseg Valley a stopping-place for visitors. At present there is, indeed, one chalet-inn, at which the accommodation is poor, the fare meagre, and the charges extortionate; but even this can only be reached by a tremendously rough char-road; and people whose bones are ordinarily sensitive will not submit very willingly to be bumped for a couple of hours in a springless *bery-wagen* over young mountains two feet high, and across the *débris* of ancient glaciers and recent avalanches, which furnish material for a huge jolt at every dozen paces. The valley is much the loveliest in the neighbourhood, and if the Commune would only make a decent road up it, and some experienced innkeeper would build a hotel close to the huge glacier at its head, the competition for admission would be so great that he might almost command his own terms. It is curious how the face of the "Capuschin," well known to all visitors to Pontresina, runs instead of losing as it is approached in point of resemblance to human physiognomy. It is about 2,000 feet from the top of the monk's cowl to the end of his beard; two huge crags form his eyes; another constitutes a gorilla-like nose; a ridge of granite makes a ferocious mouth; and fallen rocks and ice give the semblance of a grizzly beard which rests on the glacier below. You may, or may not, see the likeness without having your attention specially called to it, but when your eye has one seized it you can scarcely look up the valley without meeting the stony stare of that ogreish countenance. One would think that the resemblance, if conspicuous from Pontresina, seven or eight miles off, would vanish on nearer approach, but the Capitschin—the application of name is not very complimentary to the personal comeliness of a distinguished Order—only grows plainer, if that were possible, and fiercer in expression as you ascend the valley, and it is not until you are just underneath him that his features resolves themselves into their constituent elements.

While Pontresina is full to repletion, the answer to a request for accommodation a few days ago at one of the principal hotels was, "Every room engaged for six weeks to come," and while St. Moritz is becoming equally crowded, the villages along the chain of lakes which head the valley of the Inn are exerting themselves to find space for the overflowings of the main stream of visitors. Samaden, which used to be a mere junction where nobody thought of staying more than a single night, stands first among these in the numbers which it attracts, though it is unquestionably inferior to any of the others, standing as it does on the edge of a flat marshy plain, which might as well be in Lincolnshire as in Switzerland if it were not for the mountains which surround it, and of those mountains the town commands by no means a good view. But then both hotels—the Bernina Hof and the Engadiner Hof—possess a very good reputation, and epicures who object to the rather high fare which is generally to be had in the Engadin flock to the former inn as having the best *table d'hôte* in the neighbourhood. At Sils, perhaps the most prettily situated of any of these villages—having for its prospect the picturesque lake which bears its name, backed by the glorious ridge of snow mountains forming the western outrunner of the Bernina *massif*—there is a comfortable country inn, and the same may be said of Silvaplana at the foot of the Julier Pass, and of Campfer, further down the Inn. At Casaccia, on the Italian side, the accommodation used to be very poor, and prices, at any rate, could not stay there with comfort; but I have no means of knowing whether there has been any improvement recently. I have been harping over and over again on this subject of hotels, simply because it appears to be so particularly useful to people who are just leaving school for this part of Switzerland to have later information than they can obtain from guide-books. The unfortunate parties who have come to Pontresina only to be sent away again to shift for themselves appeal to my sympathies, and I hope to be the means of saving others from the same unpleasant plight. But it is astonishing how many people are content to take their chance of what is usually serious discomfort rather than send a telegram, which costs half a franc, inquiring as to the accommodation available.

The only bad thing about the Engadin is the difficulty of getting there and getting away. Twelve or 13 hours in diligence or carriage pass either wearily at any time, and the Albula, which is the more frequented of the two routes from Coire, is one of the most unattractive passes in Switzerland, and is, indeed, for the most part only a long trench between two bare walls of muddy-coloured rock. From the head of the zig-zags at Ponte there is one rather fine view down into the valley; but this, the prospect along the gorge above Filisaur, and occasional glimpses of Piz d'Aela—which stands defiantly out from the cluster of dolomite mountains to the south-west—alone relieve the monotony of the journey. The alternative route, by the Julier Pass, is much more interesting. The drive from Pontresina along the lakes in the early morning is charming, and the snow peaks to the south have a stern grandeur, which contrast well with the idyllic loveliness of the blue tarns with the dark fir which now in clusters, now like giant sentinels apart, stand prominently out along their margin. The top of the pass is drearily wild and desolate, and does not afford particularly good views; but the descent towards Tiefenkasten becomes finer and finer all the way, and Molins, the half-way house, is sufficiently picturesque to warrant a stay of a day or two. The inn seems comfortable, and—*avertissement aux gourmands*—here you come to the region of pink-fleshed trout very much superior in flavour to the white trout of the Inn. At Tiefenkasten the old and direct highway to Chur branches off to the right; and people have scarcely got to know the magnificent road over the Schyn Pass, which was opened only two or three years ago, and which leads to Thusis at the end of the Via Mala. The Schyn does not suffer by comparison even with that most celebrated of all Alpine gorges. The cleft of the Via Mala is, indeed, more narrow than that of the Schyn; but it has no one view which is, in my opinion, comparable to that from the Schyn-bridge that spans a torrent nearly 1,500 feet below; and it has no succession of views equal to those up the wild glens and wooded dells which present themselves on each side of the valley between Tiefenkasten and Thusis. And the route by the Schyn has the additional advantage of allowing travellers to see, without going much out of their way, two of the finest Swiss passes, and to institute comparisons for themselves.

The village from which this letter is dated is a much more pleasant halting-place than Chur, which is a few miles farther on. The inn, once a Benedictine abbey, is thoroughly good in every respect, and its guests have access to a garden (originally belonging to the house where Louis Philippe spent some time in exile) which is singularly pretty. It has been laid out—most elaborately—upon the promontory where the streams of the Vorder and Hinter Rhein meet, and a lazy holiday evening may easily be less enjoyably spent than in smoking the pipe of peace or the cigar of placidity on the rocky terrace at one window the Maelström which roars and writhes and swirls below. To botanists, especially, the place has a peculiar charm.

A LAST LOOK AT STOCKHOLM.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT.

STOCKHOLM, AUGUST 2.

After a short visit to the quiet cloisters of academic Upsala a return to this city has the effect of making it look still more bright and attractive, to which, perhaps, the wonderful purity of the atmosphere at this season may greatly contribute, while a less hurried examination of the many antique-looking churches and other public buildings materially adds to the pleasing impressions which they had formerly made.

On this occasion advantage was taken of an opportunity which offered of paying a visit to the Royal Palace of Ulriksdal, where the King has lately generally resided. Its situation on the Mälare is most beautiful, and the whole of the internal arrangements of the residence have been conceived and executed with the greatest skill and taste. It could scarcely, indeed, have been otherwise, as all have been carried on under the immediate direction of the King, whose artistic accomplishments are known to be of the very highest order. During the reign of the late King Oscar this palace had been set apart as an hospital for old soldiers, but these having been otherwise suitably provided for, his Majesty set about its restoration according to his own plans, and there can be no doubt that he has most successfully accomplished his purpose of making it at once a more comfortable as well as a more attractive abode than those to which sovereigns are in most instances accustomed.

As the King has a strong liking for curiosities of all kinds there are excellent collections of these, which are most tastefully arranged. His Majesty has likewise given evidence of his talents as a painter, for in one beautiful little boudoir the walls have all been decorated by works from his own easel, by which the most convincing proofs are afforded both of his talents and his industry. On the lake in front of the palace there was moored a beautiful small pleasure steamer, and alongside of her there were two barges made so as to represent dragons, with gilded heads and tails shining brightly in the sun. It was truly a fairy scene, for all was made lovely by the rays of a splendid sunset. The King appeared to enjoy the scene, and it was gratifying to observe that the looks and health of his Majesty had latterly much improved, so that there seems now to be no doubt that his intended visit to the German baths may soon be safely accomplished, while a visit to his daughter, the Danish Princess Royal, at Copenhagen, will afford him *en route* both rest and gratification.

Before finally leaving Stockholm another trip down the Baltic was undertaken, and a voyage among the numerous islands, set like emeralds in silver, was that which was adopted. The course followed occupied about one hour and a half outwards and about the same time in returning, and it is extraordinary to see how pleasant and comfortable such short trips can be made in the little steamers that ply for that purpose, while the cheapness of such an enjoyment is wonderful, the whole charge for such a voyage not having been more than equal to about ninepence for each tourist. It is to be regretted, however, that many of those from England do not know how to avail themselves of similar advantages, as they travel at the greatest speed by railways only, and appear to be more anxious to get over the ground quickly than to see at their leisure the beautiful scenery with which this city is on all sides surrounded.

THE DERWENTWATER ESTATES.—Some little excitement was, on Tuesday last, caused in the town of Newcastle by the sale at auction of some of the Greenwich Hospital estates (Spindleston and Whittonstall), by Messrs. Driver, the well-known auctioneers of Whitehall, London. These estates, formerly in the possession of the celebrated Earl of Derwentwater, together contain about 5,698 acres, and realised £196,000. The Spindleston estate was first offered, and after some competition was knocked down amid much applause for £116,000 to Major Browne, of Acklington, the well-known master of the hounds. The Whittonstall estate was then offered, and, one of the wealthy coal-owners of the north, Mr. Laycock, of Gosforth, became the purchaser at £80,000, with the timber in addition, which is estimated at another £25,000 to £30,000. This purchaser's name was also received with much applause, and the assembly seemed to be greatly delighted that both estates had fallen into the hands of north country gentlemen.

HER MAJESTY, &c.

FROM THE COURT CIRCULAR.

OSBORNE, WEDNESDAY.

The Queen drove out yesterday afternoon, attended by the Duchess of Roxburghe and the Hon. Caroline Cavendish.

Major-General the Hon. Arthur Hardinge, C.B., was in attendance on horseback.

Princess Beatrice and Prince Leopold, attended by the Hon. Emily Cochrane, Viscount Bridport, and Mr. Collins, were present at Cowes Regatta in the afternoon, on board her Majesty's yacht Alberta.

Her Majesty walked in the grounds this morning, accompanied by Princess Beatrice.

Sir Howard Elphinstone has left Osborne.

The Dowager Countess of Dunmore and Lady A. Murray had the honour of being received by the Queen on Monday.

The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Cambridge, and the Duke of Teck are expected to stay during the autumn military manœuvres on a visit to Mr. and Lady Augusta Sturt, at Critchill.

Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cambridge, attended by Lady Geraldine Somerset and Colonel Greville, has left Cambridge Cottage, Kew, on a visit to the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury, at Alton Towers, Staffordshire. Her royal highness will remain at Alton Towers till Saturday next.

The Duke and Duchess of Argyll and family will leave Argyll Lodge, Campden Hill, Kensington, to-day, for Inveraray Castle, Argyleshire, for the autumn.

The Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch and the Ladies Margaret and Mary Scott have left Montagu House, Whitehall, to pay a series of visits in Ireland.

The Marquis and Marchioness Townshend and family are expected to leave Dover-street, on or about the 14th inst., for New Mar Lodge, Aberdeenshire.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon had a dinner party yesterday at their residence in Carlton-gardens.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Ailesbury will leave town the day after to-morrow for Savernake Lodge, Wilts.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Lothian left town yesterday evening for Scotland.

The Earl and Countess of Dalkeith and family, who left Hamilton-place on Saturday last, intend to reside during the yachting season at the Isle of Wight.

The Earl and Countess of Clancarty have left the St. George's Hotel.

The Countess Howe has left town for the Isle of Wight.

Lord and Lady Forester have left their residence in Audley-square for Willey Park, Shropshire.

Lady Emily Peel and family have left town for Geneva. The Right Hon. Sir Robert Peel, who intended to have left for Geneva early in the week, will take his departure in a few days after her ladyship and family.

Colonel and Mrs. Learmonth and family have left town for their seat in Scotland.

A marriage is arranged to take place between Miss Rachel Bruce, second daughter of the Right Hon. H. A. Bruce, and Mr. Lewis Vernon Harcourt, eldest son of Admiral Vernon Harcourt.

THE JAPANESE EMBASSY TO GREAT BRITAIN.—The Cunard Company's agent at Boston telegraphed yesterday to Mr. M'Iver at Liverpool to the effect that 40 noblemen and gentlemen, comprising the Japanese Embassy to Great Britain, had sailed on the previous day in the City Pongus for Liverpool. The Embassy may be expected to arrive in Liverpool on Friday or Saturday week.

THE ROYAL VISIT TO WEYMOUTH.—The programme for the ceremony of inaugurating Portland Breakwater may now be considered complete. The Prince of Wales will arrive at 12.30 p.m., and as his yacht comes in sight of the anchorage off the Breakwater, the yards of the fleet will man yards, previous to which a salute will be fired. The Board of Admiralty and the admirals and captains of the fleet will be on board the Alberta, manned and a salute fired. The officers of the fleet will return to their vessels, and steam away immediately. On the conclusion of the ceremony at the Breakwater, the Portland local board will be introduced to the Prince by Lord Portman, and an address presented to his royal highness. A guard of honour of the 77th Regiment, and their band, will receive the prince at the Breakwater, and also at the Weymouth Pier. A captain's guard of honour and a yeomanry Cavalry escort will attend the prince to Hotel during the stay of the royal visitor. An address, prepared by Dr. Drew, will be presented from the mayor and corporation of Weymouth at the pier. The Duke and Agincourt arrived in Portland Roads on Tuesday evening, making nine iron-clads present.

THE PRINCESS LOUISE AND THE MARQUIS OF LORNE. —On Tuesday morning the Princess Louise and the Marquis of Lorne arrived at Ardrishaig, and landed on the quay. A royal salute was fired from the Inochgilphead battery by three guns, manned by the 10th Argyle, under command of Captain Maclachlan. The Princess and the Marquis of Lorne, Southernmost in the train, the male of Mr. John Malcolm, and returned to Auchindarroch in four, whilst the marquis remained to superintend the ferry gun exercise. At Auchindarroch the princess arrived on the battery and was received by the volunteers and a large number of the resident gentry. The party afterwards proceeded to Tarbert, where there was the small arm competition was going on, and left about six for the yacht, on board of which they remained for the night.

THE EARL AND COUNTESS OF CAITHNESS.—The Earl and Countess of Caithness arrived in Wick on Monday night, being their first visit to his lordship's estates since their marriage. They were met on arrival, and when who gave them a cordial greeting. On Tuesday afternoon they proceeded to Barrogill Castle, his lordship's seat, at which there was a profuse display of sailing about the middle of October for New York, on a pleasure tour in the United States, leaving for Oban early in December, when the countess is accompanied by her son, the young Count de Pomar.—*Glasgow Herald.*

PARLIAMENTARY CHANGES.—During the session following the Upper House by the loss of its members by death, and the House of Commons six. The former include the Earl of Lonsdale, Marquis Camden, Lord Hatherley, and Lord Redesdale. The latter, Sir Francis Crossley, M.P. for the North-West Riding of York; Mr. S. Vickers, Wallingford; Mr. John Peel, Tamworth; Mr. John Platt, Oldham; Mr. G. Sclater-Booth, East Northamptonshire; and Colonel Sykes, Aberdeen. Mr. H. Lowther's accession to the earldom of Lonsdale created a vacancy for West Cumberland, which was filled by the unopposed election of Lord Muncaster. Mr. Devereux retired from the representation of Wexford, and was succeeded by Mr. W. J. Corbet, from a similar cause Gloucestershire, in the place of Mr. R. S. Holford, who retired after 17 years' service; Mr. E. Wells, for Wallingford; and Lord Richard Grosvenor, for Flintshire, on accepting the office of Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen. Mr. F. C. H. Russell's accession to the dukedom of Bedford created a vacancy in the representation of the county, which was filled by Mr. Bassett, who polled 2,450 votes to 2,250 given to Colonel Stuart. The most keenly contested election during the session was in February last for the North-West Riding of York, where Mr. F. S. Powell, the Conservative candidate, was returned by 44 votes over Mr. Isaac Holden, the Liberal candidate; the numbers being 6,861 and 6,917. Mr. Monckton was elected for North Notts, in the room of the late Speaker, Mr. J. E. Denison (who was called to the Upper House by the title of Viscount Ossington), by 2,580 votes, against 1,524 given to his opponent, Mr. Laycock. Mr. Pender was returned for the West Burgh, in the place of Mr. Auch, by 704 votes to 498 according to Mr. Reid; Mr. Hanbury, for Tamworth, by 966 votes, his opponent, Sir Spencer Robinson, receiving only 319; Mr. J. M. R. Cobbett, for Oldham, by 7,278, against 6,984 for the Hon. Lyulph Stanley; Mr. Munster, for Mallow, by 91 votes, his opponent, Mr. M'Carthy, obtaining 78; and Mr. Farley Leith, for Aberdeen, by 4,352 votes, to 2,615 for Mr. Barclay, and 704 for Mr. Shaw. Captain Nolan, the Home Rule candidate, was returned for Galway by what appeared to be a triumphant majority, 2,823 against 658 recorded for Captain Trench, but the election was set aside on an inquiry by Judge Keogh, on the ground of undue influence and intimidation, and the name of Captain Trench was inserted in the return.

PRESENTATION TO THE COUNTESS WALDEGRAVE.

A deputation, consisting of the following noblemen and gentlemen—The Duke of Leinster, the Lord Chancellor of Ireland, the Earl of Bessborough, the Right Hon. Sir C. O'Loghlen, M.P., the Right Hon. William Monsell, M.P., Denis O'Conor, M.P., Sir John Gray, M.P., Edward Synan, M.P., O'Reilly Dease, M.P., M'Carthy Downing, M.P., Phillip Callan, M.P., and D. Murphy, M.P., Serjeant Sherlock, M.P., Mitchell Henry, M.P., Edward Maguire, M.P., Colonel O. Higgins, James Charles Coppinger, Esq., waited on Lady Waldegrave, at her ladyship's residence, 7, Carlton-gardens, yesterday, and presented her with a full-length portrait of her husband, Mr. Chichester Fortescue.

The LORD CHANCELLOR read the following address:—

"Lady Waldegrave,—We desire, in connection with Mr. Fortescue's retirement from the Chief Secretaryship of Ireland, to convey to your ladyship the expression of our regret for his change of office, and our appreciation of the high ability, the conscientious labour, the earnest work for the public good, and the patriotism which have made memorable his official career. We have no means of adequately expressing the admiration of our feelings, but we endeavour imperfectly to indicate them by asking your ladyship to accept the portrait of your distinguished husband, which we have the honour of presenting to you. We trust that whilst it furnishes an enduring memorial of the grateful admiration with which he is regarded by the Irish people and his countrymen, it will also find in some slight evidence of the respect and affection which have been won for yourself, during your sojourn amongst us by your genial hospitality and gracious kindness."

Mr. FORTESCUE replied as follows—My lords and gentlemen,—I have had to receive many deputations in my time upon many subjects. I have found it easy to say Yes, and occasionally not very difficult to say No to gentlemen who have called upon me to make various official applications. But the application which the deputation which has honoured Lady Waldegrave and myself by this visit is one to which I confess I find the greatest difficulty in giving a suitable answer. You come here wanting nothing that we can do for you; certainly nothing that we can refuse, because your principal request is that we should accept a generous gift which your sympathy has prompted. Need I say for Lady Waldegrave that she receives it with the warmest appreciation, and for myself, that your kindness could not have taken any form so acceptable to me as by addressing itself directly to her. I will not attempt to dwell on the flattering and generous terms in which you have referred to my services as Irish Secretary. But this I will say, that when I was called to that office first by Lord Derby, and a second time by Mr. Gladstone, and when Mr. Gladstone had persuaded and aroused the people and Parliament of this country to take up the Irish question with a will, seriously, heartily, and boldly, I felt deeply the privilege and responsibility of having to co-operate in Irish legislation possessed, to the work which I found to do. To have had that opportunity at one of the most critical periods in Irish history, and to have done his best to use it well for the good of the country, is a great satisfaction to a public man in my position. But that satisfaction is greatly enhanced by the proof you are now giving of your sympathy with my exertions and your approval of my public conduct. My lords and gentlemen, I am most anxious in addressing you to include those who are absent as well as those who are present, because I regard with a just pride the catalogue of distinguished and representative Irish names signed to the address. I am well aware that all who have signed it have not concurred in every part of the great measures to which the address refers, some differing in one direction and some in another. That fact only increases my sense of gratitude for the step you have taken and the language you have used; still I must be permitted to say that personally I have the strongest confidence in the permanent success and lasting results of measures which I believe to have been founded on justice and adapted, as all Irish measures ought to be, to the well-ascertained circumstances and wants of Ireland. As to the Land Bill, I cannot avoid congratulating you upon the triumphant success, in all essential respects, with which it has come out of a most searching ordeal in one of the Houses of Parliament. I will not detain you further except to renew Lady Waldegrave's warmest thanks and my own for the great honour you have done us. Your gift and your address will be valued by us above our most precious possessions, and you have, if possible, added to the reasons which will always secure to us the deepest interest in your welfare and that of Ireland.

THE EMPRESS EUGÉNIE IN THE HIGHLANDS.—The Empress Eugénie and Prince Imperial arrived at Inverness on Tuesday evening from Fort William. The prince visited the Hall of Foyers on the way to Inverness, and the former stayed for an hour to examine what was to do. On arriving at Inverness a large crowd lined the streets and cheered the party. The prince strolled through the town, and visited Macdonald's repository of tartan house, and ordered a Highland dress of Royal Stuart tartan and tweed suits. The empress expected to remain some days at Inverness and visit the picturesque localities.

THE EMBANKMENT OF THE THAMES AT CHELSEA. —The works which were commenced last year for making a direct line of communication from Westminster Bridge to Chelsea by means of an embankment from the grounds of Chelsea Hospital to a point near the Middlesex side of Battersea Bridge, are now in active progress. Already several hundred feet of the new granite wall having recently been exposed to view. The work is being carried out in the most substantial manner, and a large staff of masons and labourers now employed on it are kept at work it is believed it will be completed before the end of the year. The works of the new Albert-bridge are progressing slowly, but on the opposite side of the river the embankment wall fronting Battersea-park is quite finished, and visitors to the park can enjoy an unobstructed walk along it to a point near where the Albert-bridge commences on the Surrey side.

VISIT OF THE VOLUNTEERS TO BELGIUM.—The deputation of English volunteers and others and members of the council of the Anglo-Belgian Prize Fund appointed at its meeting on Saturday last to visit Ghent and Brussels, for the purpose of ascertaining definitely what has been proposed arrangements for the reception of English volunteers invited to attend and participate in the *fêtes* to be given at those places during the ensuing month, left London on Tuesday. The deputation consisted of Colonel Loyd Lindsay, Lieutenant Lubbock, Surrey Volunteers; Colonel Vickers, 2d City of London; Mr. Alderman Cotton, of Kingston; and Captain Charles Mercier, hon. secretary of the Anglo-Belgian Prize Fund. Lieutenant-Colonel Walmsley, 1st London Artillery, who had been also appointed, was unavoidably prevented from forming part of the deputation. Upon reaching Ostend the deputation were received in the most cordial and hospitable manner by the burgomaster, council, and central committee for the management of the *fêtes*, the 21st of September, upon which are to take place there. It has been arranged that the Ghent *fêtes* are to commence on the 15th September, when the English volunteers will be received by the mayor in the Hôtel de Ville and commemorative medals be distributed to them. The King will open the *tir* on the following Sunday, the 22d, after which there will be a review and a grand banquet, at which his Majesty will preside on the same day. Various other *fêtes* are to take place daily during the week, including the various competitions at the *tir* in prize shooting. For this competition at Ghent the prizes already exceed 500 in number and £1,200 in value, and those of the equal value will be given at Brussels to suit the English volunteers, and upon the same principle as at our own National Rifle Association at Wimbledon. The leading Brussels yesterday morning the deputation had an interview with the authorities of the Tir National at the Belgian Home-office, and were also there received by the President and Council in the most cordial and friendly manner, and it was arranged that the *fêtes* in the Belgian capital should be so fixed as not to clash with those at Ghent and other places. The *tir* at Brussels will commence at the conclusion of those at Ghent on the 22d September. The deputation, after making arrangements with respect to the number of volunteers to which the invitation is to extend, and for their lodging accommodation and other details, will return to England by the end of the week, when it is understood the home arrangements will commence.

A MYSTERY.—The journals of Vienna relate a mysterious occurrence which took place some nights back in the imperial palace, and which has not yet been cleared up. A sentry saw a female figure in a long white veil issue from the apartments of the late Archduchess Sophia. Being terrified, he ran away, and informed the Chamberlain, who, although disbelieving the story, caused the passages to be occupied. The next night the apparition again appeared, but the sentry, disappointed, however, almost immediately. But, on a subsequent occasion, another sentry of firmer nerves, on seeing the figure advancing towards him, barred the passage; on which the spectre fled, and the soldier, pursuing and overtaking it, prostrated it by a bayonet thrust through the back. Gendarmes came up at that moment, and discovered that the pretended ghost was a beardless young man, at first taken for a priest. He was mortally wounded. Since then the *employés* of the Court have maintained an absolute silence on the event, and the soldier has been put in prison and looked up in an isolated cell.

NAVAL and MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

PORTSMOUTH, WEDNESDAY.

The troop-ship Orontes, Captain Perry, left this morning for Belfast. She did not convey any troops to Ireland.

The armour-plated troop-ship Hector, Captain Thomas Cochran, and the armour-plated double screw corvette Penelope, Captain Charles Wake, left Spithead this morning for Portland to join the reserve squadron.

The armour-plated double screw iron-ship Audacious, Captain Charles W. Hope, left Spithead this evening for Portland. The Favourite, Captain J. F. Ross, will leave to-morrow morning.

CHATHAM, WEDNESDAY.

Captain Powell called more witnesses for his defence at the sitting of the general court-martial to-day. Quartermaster-Sergeant Butler, R.M., who served through the Indian mutiny, had seen hundreds of cases similar to that of Colonel Fortescue, where men would stagger and appear to be in liquor when suffering from the effects of excessive heat. Dr. W. J. Shone, formerly of the navy, and now belonging to the Great Marlow Volunteer Corps, who also served during the mutiny, described the appearances of a man suffering from the intense heat, which would be the same as those described by the witnesses in the present case. He had seen dozens of such cases. The prisoner, through his friend, Mr. Macafee, reviewed the evidence for the defence. He considered he had proved his innocence as clear as the noonday sun, and that the prosecution had broken down through its own inherent defects. The evidence given, he said, for the prosecution, with the exception of Colonel Davies', was almost irreputable. After the evidence of Dr. Shone he thought there could be no doubt as to his innocence, as he was one of the most competent judges in the country; but if they had a doubt, he claimed it as a matter of right. The court again adjourned for the prosecution to call evidence for the summing up of the Deputy Judge-Advocate.

Admiral W. H. Stewart, C.B., Controller of the Navy and Mr. M. Barnaby, the President of the Board of Construction, paid an official visit to this dockyard to-day, and inspected the vessels building and fitting out.

COLCHESTER, WEDNESDAY.

Assistant-Surgeon Reade has assumed the medical charge of the detachment of the 10th Hussars remaining at Colchester, on the departure of the regiment to take part in the autumn manœuvres.

The men of the 2d Battalion, 10th Regiment, remaining at Colchester on the departure of the regiment for the autumn manœuvres, will be attached to the 33d Regiment for medical treatment. Lieutenant O'Connor, 1st Battalion 1st Foot, and Lieutenant Weston, 7th Dragoon Guards, are to be attached to the 33d Regiment for the purpose of attending the class of garrison instructions at Colchester on Monday next.

His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has granted leave of absence to Major Brackenbury, 4th Battery, 4th Brigade, Royal Artillery, to the 17th inst., to enable that gallant officer to attend the Prussian manœuvres.

In the paragraph in the *London Gazette* of Friday last relating to the retirement of Captain Prowse, his regiment should have been described as the 1st Somerset Militia, instead of the North Somerset.

THE AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

The following are the volunteer regiments which have received the sanction of the Secretary of State for War to their attendance at the forthcoming manœuvres in Wiltshire for the full period of a fortnight. The total force is about 1,500 men, or 2,560 under the number asked for by the Secretary of State for War. It must not, however, be supposed that this represents the number of men desirous of being present at the manœuvres, for had the arrangements originally made by the War-office for the week's attendance been adhered to there would have been no difficulty in obtaining 20,000, as applications, it is stated, for nearly 19,000 were made to the War-office from all parts of the country. As will be seen, the volunteer contingent will be chiefly furnished from the metropolis, and will consist principally of detachments, formed into provisional battalions—

METROPOLITAN CORPS.—London Rifle Brigade, 1st Middlesex (Victorias), 7th Middlesex Administrative Battalion, 11th Middlesex (8th, George's), 15th Middlesex (London Scottish), 19th Middlesex (Working Men's College), 23d Middlesex (Inns of Court), 38th Middlesex (Artists), 39th Middlesex (Post-office), and the 1st Middlesex and 1st City of London Engineers.

PROVINCIAL CORPS.—Queen's (Edinburgh Rifle Brigade, 5th Lanarkshire (Liverpool) Rifle Brigade, 1st Gloucester (Bristol) Rifles, 4th Hampshire Administrative Battalion, 3d Cambridgeshire (University) Rifles, 1st Oxfordshire (University) Rifles, and 2d Oxfordshire (Oxford) Rifles.

These will be formed into three provisional battalions, as follows, and will be under the command of Captain the Hon. W. E. Sackville West, Oxford University Rifles; assisted by Major Bulwer, Inns of Court; Major Leigh-Pemberton, R.A., 1st Middlesex; Captain Hon. Ivor Guest, Oxford and Cambridge University Rifles, London Scottish, 19th Middlesex, Inns of Court, and Artists. A detachment of the 1st Middlesex (Westminsters) will be also attached to this battalion, but a sufficient number of names not having been given in to attend for the forthcoming week, the Marquis of Tavistock, Lieutenant-Colonel Macdonald, of the Queen's (Edinburgh) Rifle Brigade, assisted by Lieutenant-Colonel Hayter; London Rifle Brigade, Major Cowdray, and Captain and Adjutant Hills:—London Rifle Brigade, Victoria Rifles, 5th Lanarkshire, Liverpool Rifle brigade, and the Queen's (Edinburgh) Rifle Brigade.

The Volunteer Engineers will be attached to the Royal Engineers. No Volunteer Artillery, or Light Horse, or Mounted Rifles will take part in the manœuvres. The volunteers will receive £1 each from the Government for their attendance during the fortnight, besides the army field rations, and will be furnished with cloaks, waterbottles, camp utensils, fuel, &c.

At an early hour yesterday morning detachments of the 10th (Prince of Wales's Own) Royal Hussars, consisting of the C, D, E, F, G, and H troops, numbering about 220 sabres, left Brentwood Ealing, under command of Captain Lord Ralph Kerr, *en route* for Blandford, Dorset, in order to take part in the autumnal manœuvres. Among the officers present with the regiment were—Captains A. Barthop, T. Bulkeley, and St. Quintin; Lieutenants Viscount Campden, Gough, and Hartopp. The detachments left Brentwood Windsor at half-past ten o'clock and at a quarter past eleven respectively, the troopers being at once billeted on the town. The regiment leaves early this morning for Reading.

About next Tuesday the 1st Battalion Scots Fusilier Guards will leave Windsor for Blandford.

Colonel Sir Garnet Wolseley will act as an umpire during the autumn manœuvres. General Sir James Hope Grant has visited Salisbury, and inspected the proposed camping grounds and the water supply.

MR. MORLEY'S POLITICAL SCHEME.—A meeting was held last evening at the Arundel Club, Arundel-street, to consider the propositions which have been put forward by Mr. Samuel Morley, M.P. The meeting was strictly private, none being admitted save the delegates of political societies. Each society numbering 100 members or upwards was permitted to send two delegates, one delegate only being admitted from a society consisting of less than 100 members. The meeting was one of working men exclusively, no others being present.

AN INTERESTING RELIC.—Dean Milman, in his "Annals of St. Paul's Cathedral," mentions a fact which is not generally known. Speaking of the building of the cathedral, he says—"The architect himself had the honour of laying the first stone, June 21, 1675." The mallet which was used by Sir Christopher Wren on that memorable occasion is now the property of Mr. C. J. Freake, of Bank Grove, near Kingston-on-Thames, and on Wednesday next it will be used by her Royal Highness the Princess Mary Adelaide of Teck in the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new church schools at Kingston, Mr. Freake having lent it for the occasion.

GYMNASTIC FESTIVAL AT BONN.—More than 300 persons arrived on Friday (15th inst., Shrmstadt) to take part in the great annual gymnastic *fête*. The first sitting of the Committee of Organisation was held at noon on Saturday. Besides a great number of German and Austrian towns, New York, St. Petersburg, London, Strasburg, and Metz were represented by delegates. The names of the two from Alsace-Lorraine were received with loud acclamations.

SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS.

Though the temperature in London yesterday did not rise above 70 deg., and about mid-day had fallen as low as 60, a storm as severe as those which occurred during the tropical heat of last month was experienced in the metropolis. It was preceded by intense darkness, which necessitated the lighting up for a short time of all places of business, and a little after two the storm commenced in real earnest, the rain descending in torrents, accompanied by several heavy peals of thunder and constant succession of flashes of sheet lightning. In the City the storm abated about a quarter to three o'clock, but in the other parts of London it lasted till after four. About half past two o'clock a flash, or more correctly speaking two flashes of lightning, burst from the clouds and seemed to enter the roof of the Bank of England, which at first was supposed to have done serious injury to that building. This supposition was greatly strengthened by an unusual noise, evidently arising from something heavy falling not far off. It was soon learned that the fine old church of St. Clement Danes had been struck by lightning and severely injured. At the same instant the electric fluid entered the windows of a court in Leather-lane, Holborn, and struck down a man named James Haxell. The man was rendered insensible, but by the aid of restoratives he recovered, and it was found that he had not received any material personal injury.

WOOLWICH.

The storm at Woolwich, Greenwich, Lewisham, and the neighbourhood was the most severe within living memory. It was preceded by one or two heavy falls of rain, similar to those which have been so frequent of late, but from four till half-past four the storm raged with the most alarming violence. The thunder and lightning were almost incessant, and the rain fell in a perfect deluge. In a few minutes the streets were flooded, and in spite of the efforts of the inhabitants most of the cellars and many of the shops were inundated. At the Woolwich Police-court, where the magistrate was sitting, the officials had to leave their duties to assist in preventing the storm water invading the premises, and many other public buildings were completely swamped. The Shell Foundry in the Royal Arsenal was 18 inches under water, and everything on the floor damaged. The open space in front of the Arsenal gates was converted into a lake two or three feet deep, and was fed by torrents of water having come down the various avenues from the higher lands. The North Kent Railway was flooded in several places, the trains having to splash their way as if floating on a river. In most of the streets of the district the water was so deep that the ordinary exposition of getting a cab to cross them was of no avail, for the cabs themselves were half under water, so that passengers could not get into them. Several accidents are reported from this neighbourhood. Two girls working in a market-garden belonging to Mr. Shepard, Lower-road, Charlton, were struck by the lightning, and one of them was so much injured that it is doubtful if she will live. The police-station at Eltham was struck, and the windows smashed. It was noticed that the first of the recent heavy thunderstorms took place on the anniversary of the murder of Jane Maria Clousen at Eltham. Since then fireballs have been seen in the neighbourhood, and numerous shops and houses have been struck by lightning in the successive storms. A superstitious feeling prevails that the storms will continue till the discovery and execution of the murderer.

WINDSOR.

Yesterday afternoon, shortly after five o'clock, a thunderstorm, greatly exceeding in violence those which have recently occurred, broke over the town and castle of Windsor. The flashes of lightning were frequent and vivid, and the crash of the thunder loud. Heavy rain succeeded the storm of thunder and lightning, flooding the drains and water-courses. As much of the cereal crops around Windsor and in the neighbourhood is in stook, there can be little doubt that great damage will be caused by the storm. About a thousand school children went for a treat to Burnham Beeches and were out during the storm. When the storm was at its height the lofty tower of Holy Trinity Church was struck by lightning in several places. The electric fluid shivered a stone arch of large width in the belfry on the south side, breaking away a considerable portion of the brickwork. Damage was also done to the brickwork on the north side of the tower, and the lightning passed through a circular window below, melting the lead and destroying the glass. A house occupied by Mr. Brown, Charles-street, Windsor, was struck by what its inmates describe as a thun