

of a few families, all were booked through to Ogden. Complete lists of the company were mailed to us at the same date as the letter, but, owing to some, at present, inexplicable cause we have not yet received them.

WEAPONS OF PRUSSIA AND FRANCE.

It is generally conceded that it was neither the physical superiority nor the skill of the Prussians which conquered the Austrians in the last war between Prussia and Austria; but it was the needle-gun. In the present war all feel that much depends upon the character of the weapons used by the combatants. Prussia still has her needle-gun, which she has tested in actual warfare. Her men thoroughly know and have confidence in it. France has her Chassepot, for which she claims the deadliest precision; but it has not been fairly tested on the field of battle—unless in the affair of Saarbücken, some of the particulars of which appeared in our last evening's and to-day's issue—and until it has been tried with the needle-gun, the French soldiers will not have full confidence in it. As many of our readers may not be acquainted with the respective merits of these weapons, we give some particulars which we have gathered in regard to them; they can be relied upon.

The needle-gun, is the invention of Mr. Dreyse, a manufacturer of arms at Sommerda, who spent over thirty years in trying to construct a perfect breech-loading rifle. The weapon invented by him is a breech-loader, constructed with a plunger or slide which may be drawn back from the breech end of the barrel by a stout handle, the cavity of the breech being then exposed to view, with its upper side open. In this the cartridge is placed, and the slide is pushed back and secured by a catch. In the centre of the front end is a small hole for admitting the steel needle by which the charge is fired, and which exactly fills the hole.

The range of the needle-gun is from 1,200 to 1,400 yards, and not four or five miles. The powder is not ignited at the rear end of the cartridge, but next to the ball, where the igniting matter is placed in a kind of socket of papier mache; and this is what gives more power to the ball, the powder burning from the front to the rear. The cartridge is made up—ball in front, ball socket with lighting matter, powder. The shape of the ball resembles the shape of a cucumber. The recoil of the gun is only felt when it becomes very much heated, and the air chamber filled with the refuse of powder. When clean no recoil is felt at all. In case the needles should break or bend or otherwise become useless, a new one can be inserted in less than five seconds. Each soldier carries an extra supply of about six needles.

The Prussian army has but one calibre for all small arms, so that infantry or sharpshooters can be supplied with cartridges from any cavalry pistol or carbine cartridge wagon. The ball is spherio-conical. The charge of powder is fifty-six grains. The weight of the Prussian needle-gun is 10.27 pounds to 11.3 pounds. The mechanism can be taken apart without a screw-driver, vice, &c. It can be safely and easily cleaned, and the gun being small is particularly adapted for use in the contracted space of loop-holes, on horseback, &c. The objections to the Prussian needle-gun are the danger of a weakening of the spiral spring and the possibility that the needle may not be propelled with sufficient force to pierce the cartridge.

The Chassepot rifle is the weapon of France. It is by some, who have given it a study, regarded as the most formidable weapon ever put into the hands of a soldier, resembles the Prussian needle-gun, but possesses several improvements. Its inventor is M. Chassepot who, having the Prussian gun to aid him and improve upon, after long and careful study brought it out.

One of the principal improvements which the Chassepot has over the needle-gun is that its movement is simpler, and instead of being tightly enclosed in the breech by a cylinder it is almost fully exposed. The employment of India rubber as an obturator is also another novelty. It is argued that the needle-gun, after it has been discharged several times in quick succession, becomes hot and damp in the chamber, owing to the inability of the gas which comes back after the explosion of the cartridge to escape. The inside soon becomes dirty, and the soldier is required to take his piece apart and clean it. The Chassepot is o yw, naalsepe twandhil there is no gas shut up in a chamber to corrode the metal, it can in a moment be cleansed

from dirt or rust, and the soldier is always able to quickly discover any accident to his weapon. It is also claimed that the Chassepot is not so easily clogged as the needle-gun, and is more substantially built.

The Chassepot is also a needle-gun; its projectile is a rather long slug with the end rounded and pointed like our rifle ball. The charge which is attached to it in a paper covering, is composed of a peculiar powder, specially manufactured for the purpose. The distance at which this gun carries is very considerable—over 1,100 yards. Both the infantry and the chasseurs have only the one model.

Beside these, there is the explosive bullet, designed by a Frenchman named Pertuiset, and executed by a French artisan in the celebrated fire-arm factory of Devisme.

Externally quite similar to the original Minie, a cylindric conical mass of lead, it is discovered, by an unscrewing of its length about midway, to be internally a magazine of fulminate. The explosive compound—dynamite powder, condensed powder, or whatever it may be—has an explosive power six times that of gunpowder. Experiments which have been made demonstrate not only its effectiveness, but the singular properties its inventor has given to it. The magazine can be so constructed that the passage of a bullet through a sheet of paper will explode it, or so that the severe impact of iron or hard wood is needed for such a result. It is comforting to be assured that "a ball which would not explode in the body of a soldier or of a horse, if not at a very limited distance, would explode in the more resisting body of an ammunition wagon."

At a recent trial of Pertuiset's projectile, made by the Ordnance Department at Washington, the purpose of experiment seems to have been to demonstrate its utility in exploding caissons, artillery wagons, etc. The twenty-seven shots made at all sorts of targets proved the excellence of the fulminate for such purposes.

The French have another weapon, which is considered by them the most destructive military weapon known. It is called the Mitrailleur; but it is as yet untried in practical warfare. Recently, three hundred wretched horses, already condemned to the poleax, were purchased at the rate of four or five francs each, and ranged at a considerable distance. Two mitrailleurs were brought to play on them, and in three minutes after two discharges not one of the animals remained standing. On a second occasion, five hundred horses were brought down at a single trial.

This formidable weapon is a light 37-barrel gun, so arranged that its barrels may be discharged simultaneously or consecutively. This firing apparatus is moved by a handle, and if moved slowly, the cartridges are fired one by one. If the plate be withdrawn rapidly they follow each other so quickly that their discharge is all but simultaneous. The invention seems very well adapted for use in forts or other permanent places of defense or offense, but it is said to be unsuitable for general use.

Prussia claims to have an invention that is superior to their own needle-gun and the Chassepot. It can be fired twenty-two times a minute with ease. They have also another invention of which they think highly. It is a kind of heavy and very large rifle with a cast steel barrel four and a half feet long, and mounted on two light wheels very much like a piece of artillery. This rifle has been distributed extensively among the infantry, every battalion of which has now a number of them. It is aimed and fired off by a soldier kneeling behind it, and catching the recoil, in order to steady the aim, by means of a padded cushion or saddle. The distance at which this new gun carries is very great, the same as that of the heavy artillery. It shoots with great precision, and seems to be more particularly destined to be used against the enemy's artillery, for the killing of the men serving the guns, their horses, and the explosion of ammunition chests, although it may also be used against infantry and cavalry. The projectile is filled with a highly explosive substance.

It is frightful to contemplate how the ingenuity and skill of man are being used in our day to manufacture engines of warfare for the destruction of his fellow-man. So-called Christian destroying his fellow-Christian and doing his best to send the other to heaven or hell, making but little difference to him where he goes so he gets him out of the way, though it is presumable that he would prefer his going to the latter place for a little while at least! While

Christendom is in this state, is it any wonder that men are infidel to her claims and pretensions and look upon the popular religions of the present age as enormous swindles? Judging by what they have done and are still doing these pseudo-Christians, if they had access to the substance which their preachers often allude to—hell-fire, would try and get the monopoly of its use, and do it up in some form to fire at their opponents, and offer long thanksgivings for the advantages which had been placed within their reach.

LAND WARRANT FEES.

MANY inquiries have been made by our citizens, who have had lands to enter, about the fees chargeable by the land officers in such cases. We have received a circular issued by the General Land Office, in which we find the following statement of the fees which are to be paid at the time of location:

For a 40-acre warrant, 50c. each to the Register and Receiver,	
Total,	\$1.00
For a 60-acre warrant, 75c. "	1.50
For an 80-acre warrant, \$1.00 "	2.00
For a 120-acre warrant, \$1.50 "	3.00
For a 160-acre warrant, \$2.00 "	4.00

Any higher charge at the time of location than these enumerated in this statement is illegal and ought not to be paid. Those who have entered land will know by this whether or not they have paid more than they ought, and, of course, those who enter land hereafter can know what fees they ought to pay. And while upon this subject we will add that those who go to the Land Office to enter land should be careful to enter it properly, and be sure that they have got the right quarter section or other sub-division of a section that they want, and not a piece of land that has already been entered. If we are correctly informed, either through the ignorance or neglect of the proper officer here, entries have been made in the Land Office of land which lies somewhere under Salt Lake, and which, for anything the present generation knows, has never been uncovered since the days of Noah's flood. In other instances the same land has been entered twice and even three times, and these duplicate and triplicate entries have been noticed in the General Land Office at Washington. Such neglect, or ignorance, or mismanagement on the part of an officer is utterly inexcusable, and plainly shows that he is unfit for the position to which he has been appointed. We are inclined to think there is a combination of two causes in the case referred to; first, incompetency, and, second, inattention to his business. An incompetent man might by diligence and close attention to the duties of a position, acquire sufficient knowledge and experience to discharge them with tolerable credit; but when he, instead of taking that course, is seized with a restless and insane desire to reach a position for which it is very clear nature never designed him, his incompetency and utter worthlessness become too apparent to escape animadversion.

THE MITRAILLEUR.

By to-day's dispatches we learn that the new French weapon, of which we wrote in yesterday's issue—the Mitrailleur—has had a practical trial in actual warfare. At a distance of over 1,700 yards the enemy were cut down by it in a most fearful manner, half of two detachments which threw themselves in sight being either killed or wounded by its destructive fire. With such weapons, if armies will only come within range, the fate of nations will soon be decided.

FALSEHOOD CONTRADICTED.

"General Augur, Commandant of this Department, returned from Utah yesterday. The General scouts the statement contained in a recent telegram that he was insulted by the people of Salt Lake."

The above we clip from the Omaha Herald, and we do so with the more pleasure because it shows that General Augur is not willing that sensational dispatches, based on falsehood, in which his name is concerned, should be circulated, even if they are sent with the intention of damaging the "Mormons." We thank the Herald for placing the General's statement on record. But how must he feel towards the persons, who were doubtless introduced to him as respectable, who suffered this falsehood to go uncontradicted, and especially when he learns that one of them, if we have been correctly informed, by the name of Offly was the author of the dispatch itself, which he has deemed it necessary to contradict? We

understand this W. P. O. person assumes to be the agent of the Associated Press in this city; we are surprised at this, for we have known several agents of the Associated Press and they were gentlemen. Judging by his dispatch relative to the occurrence in which General Augur and the people of this city figure, we expect equally false dispatches in relation to the election recently held in this Territory, and other occurrences, have been sent off. We heard yesterday that a certain would-be prominent man had been circulating the report that he had been turned out of his boarding house by the influence of the Church authorities here, because he had thrust himself forward as an opposition candidate. It would be strange if this agent suffers such garbage to pass without preserving and transmitting it over the wires for the delectation of those having similar tastes with himself. He will never mention, of course, that it has been a matter of surprise how any decent boarding house keeper could endure for any length of time the presence of such a person as this expelled boarder. But we shall probably see, in a few days, what kind of dispatches he has sent; and it will be a little satisfaction to know who it is that makes it a business to misrepresent and defame the people of this Territory.

THE NEWMAN CHALLENGE.

WE informed our readers in Saturday's issue that Dr. Newman, the pastor of the Metropolitan Church at Washington city, was in town, and was professedly eager to hold a discussion upon the scripturality of the practice of plural marriage. On Saturday he opened a correspondence with President Brigham Young upon this subject, and several letters passed between them, which we have the opportunity of spreading in full before our readers in another column.

The letters of Dr. Newman are the most remarkable productions of the kind that it has ever been our fortune to peruse. His attempt to make it appear that President Young was the challenging party, because a newspaper editor in Salt Lake City chooses to say that "Dr. Newman's sermon should have been delivered in this city, with ten thousand Mormons to listen to it and then Elder Orson Pratt, or some prominent Mormon, should have had a hearing on the other side and the people been allowed to decide," will strike every person who reads the correspondence as an extraordinary and shallow trick to get notoriety. There are two points which, it appears from his correspondence, he hoped to gain: First, to make it appear that he was the challenged party. Second, in the event that the newspaper article, which he construed into a challenge, was declared to be an individual editor's views and not the official utterance of the authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, (which every sane man would readily conclude would be the case), to have the impression prevail throughout the country that he had come to Salt Lake City prepared to discuss the question, "Does the Bible sanction Polygamy?" but had so frightened the Latter-day Saints that they dare not meet him, and by this make for himself, on cheap terms, a national reputation for courage and ability! These points which he aims to make are entirely based on the article from which he quotes, and which was published in the Salt Lake Telegraph, a paper owned and published by a person who was not a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Dr. Newman, however, asserts that Mr. Sloan, who is a member of the Church and was associate editor at the time, wrote the article. How he obtained this information he does not state; we do not know who wrote the article. But if, as asserted, Mr. Sloan wrote it, he did so as an editor and not in his capacity as an Elder. It was plainly stated in the Telegraph, when it passed into the hands of Dr. Fuller, that

"The Telegraph is not the organ of any person or party; it will not be the exponent of any religious doctrines or creed, but it will speak plainly, independently and honestly, on the subjects it may discuss; and it will defend civil and religious liberty and constitutional rights at all times."

Suppose a Washington paper, the assistant editor of which was a Methodist and a member of Dr. Newman's church, were to write an article on any subject in a similar strain to the article referred to, would any sensible opponent of his accept it as a challenge, repair to Washington, and because Dr. Newman did not take his view of the article, assert