

short cannonade from the outer forts of that stronghold.

A Verona dispatch, 2 p.m. of the 24th, says a great battle has been in progress since morning, between the Italians and Austrians. Both wings of the Italian army have already been repulsed. The battle still continues. Official dispatches from Austrian headquarters name the action the battle of Custoza, and say the Italians were driven across the Mincio, the Imperial army following. Our forces took several cannon and many prisoners, and behaved with extraordinary valor and endurance. The King employed in the attack the three corps of the army of the Mincio and the reserve. Prince Amedeus and many generals were wounded. The enemy appears to have brought all his troops in succession under fire.

An official dispatch from the Italian headquarters, June 24, says a desperate engagement has just taken place in front of Verona, lasting almost the whole day. The 1st corps, which was intended to occupy positions between Peschiera and Verona, did not succeed in the attack. The 2d and 3d army corps were unable to deliver the 1st corps from the assault it had to sustain against an overwhelming force; the two latter corps are almost intact. An Austrian detachment occupied Stelvio pass, and descended from thence to Bormio in Lombardy, on the night of the 24th. Garibaldi is near Lake Garda.

Judging from the preparations on the Lower Po, Cialdina will throw bridges across near Polezzola.

The *Moniteur* says the Italian volunteers who were at Como have passed through Peceo, on their way to the Tyrol. The Italian fleet left Tarento on the 23d.

Two attempts were made by the Hanoverians to break through the Prussian line between Eisenach and Gotha. A dispatch from Gotha, on the 24th, says the Hanoverian commander had declared himself willing to capitulate to the Prussian troops, if the Hanoverian officers are personally convinced that the Hanoverian army is completely shut in by a superior number of Prussian troops. Later dispatches say that negotiations for capitulation remained without results, and that, pending a truce, the Hanoverians have succeeded in reaching the territory of Meiningen, after having eluded the different Prussian corps by which they were surrounded.

Paris, June 25.

The *Moniteur* says the advance of the Prussians into Bohemia will have the effect of preventing Gen. Benedek from entering Silesia, and that an engagement will shortly take place in Bohemia appears inevitable.

The Grand Duke of Baden has broken off relations with Prussia.

The movements of the Austrians, says a Berlin telegram, on the frontiers of Eastern Silesia are regarded as a feint; the main attack is expected farther to the west.

Cracow, June 25.

The town of Oswiecim, in Galicia, was attacked yesterday by a battalion of Prussian infantry and 2 divisions of cavalry, which retired after a loss of 8 killed and several wounded; no loss was incurred by the Austrians.

Berlin, June 23.

The official *Staats Anzeiger* of today, says that, after the entry of the Prussians into the Electorate of Hesse, the King of Prussia again made fresh endeavors to come to an understanding with the Elector. On the 22d, the Prussian Minister offered an alliance on the basis of the Prussian proposition for a new confederation, on condition that the Elector should have a Minister which should guarantee the constitution of 1831. Had this been accepted, the possession of his throne and his sovereign rights would have been guaranteed to him. The Elector however declined the conditions without further hesitation; it was, therefore, necessary that measures should be adopted to connect the two positions of the Prussian kingdom. The present military position of the Prussian kingdom is a sure guarantee against a return to the former state of things.

The Elector of Hesse has been sent to the north. The King of Prussia has placed the castles of Sterzing and Konigsberg at his disposal.

A telegram from Berlin, June 25, says the government intends to instruct its Representatives abroad to declare that the circulation of false intelligence by the Austrian authorities, relative to forcible enrollments by Prussia in Bohemia, is a breach of international law; and that their object is to present to the Austrian population the war which has broken out in the light of a war of extermination against the inhabitants.

Prussia has decided not to carry out,

in the case of Hanover, the measures allowed by international law against the trade and shipping of a hostile country, and has instructed the commanders of the Prussian men-of-war neither to blockade the Hanover ports nor seize private property at sea, with the exception of that contraband of war belonging to Hanoverians.

Brunswick has notified the Prussian government of her willingness to support the Prussian proposals for reform.

A telegram from Berlin says it is officially announced that the Prussian alliance has been occupied by all the North German States, with the exception of Saxony, Hanover, Hesse and Nassau.

Hungarian deserters come into the Prussian outposts with their horses and accoutrements; a department has been formed of them at Glogla. Hungarian officers are expected to arrive, in order to organize them.

The Mecklenberg and Oldenberg armies have been mobilized. They will form a reserve corps, with other troops of Northern Germany, near Forgan.

A Leipzig dispatch, of the 25th, says that a Prussian army corps had arrived, destined to operate against Bavaria.

A Berlin dispatch, of the 26th, states that it is positively announced that the Hanoverian army is completely surrounded, and the demand of the King for 24 hours for deliberation on terms of capitulation had been granted.

A Florence dispatch, of the 26th, says the papers there assert that the want of success in the first battle is but a new motive for redoubled energy and perseverance. The country had full confidence in the army, and the war against Austria will be continued until the complete liberation of Venetia is achieved.

An official dispatch dated Breccia, 25th, says today an engagement took place between the Italian volunteers and the Austrians, between the bridge of Cofaro and Sandstone. The Austrians were repulsed, leaving several killed and wounded.

### Miscellaneous.

#### STATISTICS OF THE BRITISH POST-OFFICE.

The Postmaster General of Great Britain has issued his twelfth annual report on the administration, operation, and results of his department, during the past year. The report is very voluminous, filling a "blue book" of sixty pages. From its statistics, the following interesting facts are gathered:—

There were in 1865 in the whole of England and Wales 3,934,703 inhabited houses, which was 40,712 more than in the previous year. In Scotland the number was 402,692, an increase of 2,229. In Ireland there were 268,831, a decrease of 5,188. There was also a simultaneous diminution of population in Ireland of 30,226. In the whole United Kingdom there were 5,306,226 inhabited houses and 29,810,077 inhabitants in 1865.

These people received during the year 720,407,007 letters, or each person 24. The proportion in 1864 was 23 each. This was the average for the kingdom; it differed in each division. In England and Wales 597,277,616 letters were delivered, an increase of 6.59 per cent., an average of 28 to each person. In Scotland, 67,048,891 letters; increase, 4.33 per cent.; 21 to each person. Ireland, 56,140,500; increase 3.005 per cent.; 10 to each person.

During 1865 to each inhabited house in England and Wales 151 letters were delivered; to each in Scotland, 158; to each in Ireland, 58. These deliveries were exclusive of book packets, newspapers, and packets by the pattern post.

There were 43,569,955 free newspapers delivered in the year, besides 53,682,811 book packets, including chargeable newspapers.

The gross total of articles conveyed by the post in 1865—letters, books, newspapers, samples and patterns—was 818,990,000.

There were 542,000 valentines; nearly one fourth of the whole number of those posted in London were posted in the western district; and there were more than twice as many sent from London to the country as from the country to London.

Upwards of 12,000 letters were posted in England and Wales without any address, and of these 298 contained cash, notes, bills, and cheques, to the amount in all of £3,700.

Money orders were paid to the amount of £18,140,550.

There were 811,819 depositors in the Post Office Savings' Banks, and they held £8,526,400. The Postmaster says of this system that it "has been found to work well in each and all of its parts, and to admit of any expansion of business,

no matter how great or how sudden that expansion of business may be.

Amongst the articles sent through the book post during the year were 9 ladies' jackets, 563 shirts, 471 specimens of carpet, 2 candles, 4 weighing machines, 93 boots and shoes, 1 mousetrap, 2 shoemakers' lasts, 250 Pharaoh's serpents, 28 pieces of Atlantic cable, 6 felt hats, 7 door-handles, 3 fishing-tackle, 13 samples of grease, 1 opera-glass.

**THE FASTEST STEAMER IN THE WORLD.**—The Egyptian paddle-wheel steam yacht *Mahroussa*, Capt. Frederico Bey, built under the superintendence of the Peninsular and Oriental Company, by Messrs Samuda Brothers, of London, for the Viceroy of Egypt, arrived here on Saturday the 12th inst., at 6 30 p.m., having performed the voyage from Southampton in the unprecedented short time of 157 hours. When under full steam she consumes seven tons of coal per hour, and is without exception the fastest vessel afloat. At the measured mile in Stokes Bay her average speed was upwards of 18.4 knots an hour, which is equal to about twenty and half statute miles. After replenishing fuel she proceeded on the 16th inst., for Constantinople, to meet his Highness the Viceroy, who, it is reported, intends paying a visit to England in her this summer. This splendid vessel is of 1,800 tons, and is fitted with machinery of 900-horse power. Her interior fittings are of extraordinary magnificence. Her cost is said to have been 166,000*l.*—[*Malta Times*.]

**SINGULAR DEATH FROM A PISTOL SHOT.**—The *New York Post* says:—Coroner Lynch held an inquest on the body of an infant named Jacob Strouse, who came to his death in the following manner:—His father was in the habit of keeping a loaded pistol under his pillow at night. Yesterday morning he forgot to remove the pistol, and on making the bed his wife tossed the pistol on the floor, causing it to explode, and instantly killing the child, who was sitting near at the time.

**PROPELLING VESSELS BY TURBINE WHEELS.**—An interesting trial of a new mode of propulsion for steam vessels by steam has been made on the Thames. The *Nautilus*, an eighty-seven ton boat, fitted by Ruthven's hydraulic propeller, was fairly and successfully tried against a river boat. The propeller consists of a turbine wheel below the water-line, which throws out with great force water admitted from the bottom by four nozzles, two at the stem and two at the stern. The vessel of course goes forward when the latter and backwards when the former are used. If the stream of water be sent in opposite directions the vessel turns as on a pivot. A rudder is not really wanted. Numerous advantages are specified, among them that the water of a leak would be rapidly forced out and made to serve, instead of to sink the vessel. All the machinery of motion is wholly out of the reach of injury by an enemy, and the government has ordered the building of a gunboat on this principle.—[*N. Y. Evening Post*.]

**COAL.**—The coal-fields of the countries possessing coal will be recognized if we compare them by some simple unit of measure. Let this be 100 square miles. In this case—Russia will be represented by 1; Spain, 2; anthracite fields of Pennsylvania, 4; Westphalia and Bohemia, 4; Belgium, 5; France, 10; Rhenish Prussia, 10; British Provinces of North America, 17; British Islands, 40; Europe, 75; Pennsylvania, 126; Appalachian coal-fields of the United States, 2,200. Whichever way the foregoing figures are taken, they clearly represent the enormous coal-producing power of North America, and the vast wealth of mineral possessed by that country.

A SINGULAR case of death from hanging occurred near Mahanoy City, Pa., recently. An infant, a few months old, was sleeping with its parents in bed. Awakening some time in the night, the mother missed her child. Raising herself to search for the babe, she discovered it hanging outside of the bed, suspended by the neck by the string of its night cap caught on one of the pegs of the bed rail. Life was extinct.

THE West India crop of sugar this year will probably reach twelve thousand hogsheads and a corresponding quantity of rum and molasses, say from five to eight thousand hogsheads of molasses and three thousand of rum. This will be fifty per cent. more than the crop of 1855, and fully double that of the preceding year.

### NEWS ITEMS.

GERMANY is drinking more and more beer. In Bavaria, the consumption has doubled in ten years—a hopeful prospect.

SALMON fishing has been unusually good this season in Ireland, the abundance of fish being attributed to the beneficial operations of the new fishery law.

M. JULES SIMON states, in his recent work on Labor, that there are beggars in Paris who have received alms from generation to generation, or beyond the first revolution—hereditary beggars—trained to beg and live no other way.

THE largest of the Paris houses, the Grand Theatre Parisien, which seats 8,000 people, and opened last year with a grand flourish of trumpets, proclaiming itself the "continuator of the traditions of the theatres of ancient Rome," (apparently forgetting that the Circus Maximus seated 270,000 spectators, and the Colosseum 350,000) has produced a "grand military drama," entitled "Puebala," which, with its 20 sieges, 31 sackings and 400 discharges of artillery, is driving the west-end people wild with delight.

THE Algerian journals are filled with details of a disastrous invasion of locusts. Thick clouds of them have alighted on the country near Dellys, and they are also numerous at Marengo. The cultivated slopes of Mustapha have suffered severely, the corn crop being nearly all devoured. At Birma-dris and Birkadem the green of the potato and bean crop has been completely destroyed. Great numbers have appeared at Algiers and the neighborhood, and Churchill has been assailed by innumerable flights which have committed dreadful ravages at Oud-el-Aleng. A letter from Oran announces their arrival in that district, where Terrira has suffered the most. The military authorities have placed the soldiers at the disposal of the colonists.

THE Davenport, (Iowa) *Democrat* gives a sad picture of the condition of affairs in that city:

"In a single week 'a delicate and refined lady is knocked down and almost murdered in the streets, in broad daylight by a degraded brute who richly deserves a halter. Two men are slashed up in a night or two following at a dancing garden; a small fire item intervenes, and then a bigamist is arrested for marrying four unsuspecting and confiding creatures, and blasting their hopes for life. A well bred and well educated, though wonderfully depraved young man is horsewhipped by an indignant mother for committing a nameless crime. Our levee is made a battle field for aspiring roustabouts and arrogant gentlemen of color. Urged on by patriotism, impulsive Fenians start forth to the wars, and little minded thieves travel to the jail for stealing coats, tea spoons or razors. The list is endless. Truly our city is assuming metropolitan airs. With circuses, free fights, watch grabbing, assaults, stabbing affrays, burglaries, petty larcenies, and attempts at murder, we are having a fine reputation built up. It is about time that offenders were dealt with in a manner to make the law a terror to them. Davenport once had a fine reputation. It is about time its citizens were rescuing it from dishonor."

PRINCE ALFRED of England has become Duke of Edinburgh, and is to take his seat in the House of Lords. The title became extinct by the death of Prince William Frederick, without issue, on Nov. 5th 1834.

A Boston paper has a report that a clerk in one of the wholesale stores of that city has lately been afflicted with a painful breaking out on the neck, which he at first attributed to boils, but a physician being called, the patient was informed that he was suffering from the poisonous properties of articles used in the preparation of his enamelled paper collars, which had been absorbed into his system.

THE Secretary of the Baptist Missionary Society publishes an appeal for help for sufferers from famine in the Indian province of Orissa. More than one hundred children in the schools at Cuttack are entirely dependent upon the missionaries. In addition to them there is a native Christian community of about nine hundred persons reduced to the utmost extremity; while the heathen around are perishing by thousands from famine and pestilence. This state of things has lasted about eight months, and it is feared that under the most favorable circumstances there must be several more months of scarcity.