DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Thursday, . . . May 21, 1868.

THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD.

At the present day the standing armies of the world are larger than they were in the time of the first Napoleon. The army of the United States now numbers 56,000 men in all. For the extent of our territory this is the smallest army in proportion, and we have reason to congratulate ourselves upon the fact. The cost of our army is $100,000,000, or nearly $2,000,000, per hundred men. The army of France has been fixed at 750,000 men in the "active army," and 550,000 in the "passive," the latter being named the National Guard Mobile. Total, 1,300,000 men available for war. A contingent of 100,000 men is annually available to recruit the army.

The British army numbers about 200,000 men. The bulk of this army is at home, Ireland absorbing about 25,000 men. Of the colonies or foreign possessions, India takes the largest body of troops, the Dominion of Canada next, Australia next.

The Prussian army numbers about 600,000 men.

The Italian army now numbers 215,000 men, and is a very effective one. In [illegible] or rifle battalions, it excels even the French army, whose Zouaves were supposed to be the first light infantry in the world.

The Austrian army numbers about 700,000 men; its cavalry is said to be [illegible]. The government breeds its own horses, and thus secures good mounts.

The Russian army numbers about 800,000 men; it could be quickly increased to 1,200,000 in time of war. It is spread all over the empire, from the Baltic to the Caucasus.

The Spanish army is small, not exceeding 80,000 men; but it is very well clothed and disciplined. It is also receiving breech loaders.

The number of men maintained in the standing armies of civilized nations is not less than 6,000,000. All these vast numbers are snatched away from useful industries, and condemned to idleness and a vicious life, while the laboring people are taxed for their support, and for the costly armaments they require. What a police force! Would it not be cheaper to deliver a few rogues? [*N. Y. Evening Post.*

ANECDOTE OF HIRAM POWERS.—Hiram Powers, the eminent sculptor, a native of Vermont, when a mere lad removed to Cincinnati. He resided there for many years, and it was in that city he first showed his genius by making some excellent wax figures for Dufeull's Museum, a well-known place of amusement in the West at that time. Among other figures he made one of Alexander Drake, a popular comedian in that section thirty years ago. Some of Power's friends were so much pleased with this work that they invited the Queen City gentlemen to look at it—among them was one notorious for his hypercriticism, and believed to be something of a pretender withal. This particular critic came in the evening when the Museum was dimly lighted, and took his position before the glass case. After gazing at the figure very intently for five minutes, he said to Powers, who was at his elbow: "There are some good points about this, Hiram; but it has some extraordinary defects. The nose is too long, clumsy, and the mouth has a queer twist. One arm is longer than the other. The position, too, is unnatural. No man could stand that way if he tried. It would be impossible. I tell you, Hiram, no person could have made such a blunder." Powers laughed and inquired of the figure: "What do you think about it, Drake?" The figure immediately stepped out of the case, and bursting into a loud laugh, said: "I think the position pretty natural myself."

The critic did not hear the last of the jest to his dying day, and never afterwards spoke to the facetious sculptor.

IN a recent pastoral, Dr. Arthur Cleveland Coxe says:

"When I see the tawdry fashions, the costly vulgarity and the wicked extravagancies of the times, I feel sure that thousands of American women are strangers to the first law of refinement—simplicity in manners and attire.

"When I see that thousands of American women read the most shameful [illegible] and the most degrading newspapers; frequent the vilest dramatic entertainments and join in dances too shocking to be named among Christians, I feel that Christian matrons are becoming [illegible] and degraded heathen women, returning to the fields we have wrested from the Indians.

"When I read, daily, of the most ungodly divorces and of crimes against social purity and against human life [illegible] which are too [illegible] to be mentioned, I feel that too many of our country women are without God in the world, and that radical reforms are necessary in the system of education on which the young women of our country are depending for their training.

"When I see thousands of households in which young girls are reared for a life of pleasure, without reference to duty, I cannot wonder at these results, nor at the misery in which they involve families and communities. 'Sow the wind and reap the whirlwind!'

"As a Christian bishop, therefore, I make my appeal to you, Christian women, and I ask you to begin the reformation, by faithfully bearing your testimony against all that tends to the degradation of woman, and the more so, when such crimes are not only winked at, but receive countenance in circles which boast of their exclusiveness."

HOW MUSKRATS WORK UNDER THE ICE.—Muskrats have a curious method of traveling long distances under the ice. In their Winter excursions to their feeding grounds, which are frequently at great distances from their abodes, they take [illegible] breathing, and remain under the water as long as they can. They then rise up to the ice, and [illegible] which remains in bubbles against the lower surface of the ice. They wait till this air recovers oxygen from the water and ice, and then take it again, and go on till the operation has to be repeated. In this way they can travel [illegible] any distance, and live any length of time [illegible]. The hunter sometimes takes advantage of this habit of the muskrat in the following manner:

When the marshes and ponds where the muskrats are are frozen over, and the ice is thin and clear, on striking into their houses with his hatchet for the purpose of setting his traps, he [illegible] the water [illegible] under the ice. Following one of them for some distance, he sees him come up to renew his breath in the manner above described. After the animal has breathed against the ice, and before he has time to take his [illegible], the hunter strikes with his hatchet directly over him, and drives him away from his breath. In this case he drowns in swimming a few rods, and the hunter, cutting a hole in the ice, takes him out. Mink, otter and beaver are taken under the ice in the same way, and hunters have frequently told of taking otter in the manner described when these animals visit the houses of the muskrat for prey.

COSTLY PEARLS.—We all know Julius Cæsar, when he was in love with the mother of Marcus Brutus, gave her a pearl worth nearly a quarter of a million of our money; and how Mark Antony drank one, dissolved in vinegar, which cost nearly $400,000; while Cleopatra "the glutton" swallowed one worth $40,000. The example of Cleopatra found an imitator even in sober England. Sir Thomas Gresham, not otherwise famous for acts of folly, still so mistook the meaning of loyalty that he ground a pearl, which had cost him £15,000, into a cup of wine, in order thus fitly to drink the health of his great Queen! This plargarist again had many rivals in the mad courtiers of Louis XIV., who, in their insane extravagance, were wont to pulverize their diamonds, and occasionally used the powder to dry the ink of letters which they sent to their beloved ones! Is diamond powder in the hair much worse.

The largest pearl on record is probably one bought by that most romantic of all travelers and dealers in precious gems, Tavesnier, at Catifa, in Arabia, where a pearl fishery existed already in the days of Pliny. It is said—for the pearl is unknown to our day—to have been pear-shaped, perfect in all respects, and nearly three inches long. He obtained from the Shah of Persia, the enormous sum of £110,000 for the gem.

Mr Hope's pearl which is looked upon as the finest known, is two inches long and four inches round. It weighs 1,800 grains, and like all such rarities, is of such enormous and uncertain value that no one would buy it at a market price. The most beautiful collection of pearls belongs, however, to the Dowager Empress of Russia. Her husband was exceedingly fond of her, and as he shared, with other fancies, also that for fine pearls with her, he sought for them all over the world. They had to fill two conditions rarely to be met with; they must be perfect spheres and they must be virgin pearls; for he would buy none that had been worn by others. After twenty-five years search, he at last succeeded in presenting his Empress with a necklace such as the world had never seen before.—*R. R. Reveille.*

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[ADVERTISEMENTS.]

BUCK & WRIGHT AHEAD.

As may be seen by the following article, which we copy from the New Orleans Times of 15th inst., Buck & Wright have taken the highest premium in the stove line at the New Orleans Fair. Six entries were made with Buck's "Brilliant" away ahead of the heap.

A thorough stove trial was opened yesterday at the Exposition building, and a large number assembled to witness it, both amongst the exhibitors and spectators, all of whom seemed thoroughly interested in the trial. Bid P. B. principle of "may the best stove win." Promptly to the time the committee appeared on the judges' stand, and the trial commenced, amid much excitement and responsibility. The entries were the same as at the agricultural fair, and the engineers had not been charged.

At ten minutes to one the drum tapped, and all lighted up. Mr. Wm. Furnace, run by Mr. E. Wood Perry, led off in a tempest amid the cheers of the crowd and loud cries of "Go it, old one." Charter Oak followed, and the rest gave vaporimm for about minutes, just as they were [illegible] in breaking all followed suit as quickly as though life depended on the issue, but Buck's Brilliant had started first, and was already in the stove. Then came the tug, the cooks continued to glowed like the stoves, a perpetual snapping of opening and [illegible] resounded over the arena. Stoves were patted, stroked and petted as though they were human beings. All seemed confident of victory, and the crowd enlivened the scene with [illegible] and encouraging comments from time to time. Mr. Perry's efforts seemed [illegible] greatest favored.

At twenty minutes past one "Corpus Plenty" threw open its throttle and announced that it wanted no more fuel. All the others "shut up" and "keeping up Kate" the time for the bread to be baked approached, excitement had increased to a [illegible] within and without the arena. At last [illegible] less turned [illegible] minutes; Northern Furnace followed, [illegible] next, in 42, the [illegible] Samaritan, 42½, and [illegible] 47. The grand result of the trial was as follows: "Uncle Sam" [illegible] Norton's Furnace, good, [illegible] weighed 7 lbs 3 [illegible] Charter Oak, Rice, [illegible] weighed [illegible] lbs 4 oz; burned [illegible] Peerless, Oakley, [illegible] weighed 7 lbs 4 oz; burned [illegible] Good Samaritan, [illegible] lbs 8 oz; burned [illegible] Cotton Plant, Levi [illegible] weighed 7 lbs 1 oz; burned [illegible] Buck's [illegible] weighed [illegible] 7 lbs [illegible]

At the conclusion [illegible] taken charge of by the [illegible] and locked up for an hour, at the expiration of which it [illegible] with the [illegible] best wood stoves to Buck & Wright, of the Louisiana [illegible] Campman [illegible] Jan. 15.

d115 & all-1m & w6-1

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