

melt a quarter of a pound in the oven; then add one beaten egg and a wine-glass of milk. Beat all these together, return to the oven and brown. It requires but a few moments.

Fried apples, though a very old-fashioned dish, taste well for breakfast. Lay some small bits of salt pork on the griddle, and remove when the griddle is very hot, and lay pieces of fair, tart apples, as large as can be cut, skin uppermost, on the griddle. They must be laid singly, like buckwheat cakes. Cook moderately fast, turn when brown, and sprinkle with salt. When softened thoroughly arrange on a dish. They will be found very palatable. The apples should not be mellow.

LIFE IN OUR REGULAR ARMY.

THE following is communicated to us by "A Soldier," who writes from Fort Lewis, Col., under a late date:

In this great country, where a regular standing army is so unnecessary, the public can afford to look with indifference on matters solely connected with it; but once in a while they are forced to think of its management or rather its mismanagement, which is so glaring that it forces itself on the attention of the public at least annually, when we have the Commanding General's report. This document has become a continual wail deploring desertion, and making suggestions of lame remedies for its prevention.

The writer of this letter, for publishing from an enlisted man's standpoint, the cause of so much desertion, was accorded the severest punishment in the power of a court-martial to inflict, but the punishment has certainly not changed his opinion in the least. In his report just published General Schofield says there were 2,436 desertions from the army during the past year. This may look enormous to those who have not been troubling themselves much about former reports, but to those who are either in the army, or who take sufficient interest in it to read anything about its workings, this aggregate is indeed a small one.

In 1881 the desertions numbered 2,361; the next year they rose to 3,741; the two following years they were 3,578 and 3,672 respectively. An improvement was effected in 1885 and 1886, when the numbers fell to 2,927 and 2,090. This improvement was caused by an order from the war department severely censuring the officers for the tyrannical manner in which they enforced military

discipline, but the officers soon forgot the order and again reverted to their old game of persecution, tying men up by the thumbs, "spread eagling" and otherwise torturing their victims in the name of military discipline, when as a matter of fact the punishments were for the most trivial offenses, or none at all.

No wonder then that desertions increased. They will continue to increase as long as the men are treated not indeed like soldiers, but worse than Russian Nihilists, who have been caught plotting treason against their Czar. I have in my mind's eye a case which recently occurred right here, as an illustration of the severity and wanton cruelty of the punishments inflicted. This was a recruit who had unfortunately become obnoxious to a petty officer who, as a punishment, ordered him to remove some indescribable filth which by chance was in the vicinity. To this the soldier objected until he could see a superior officer. He was thereupon ordered into a dark cell where he remained till general charges were preferred against him for disobedience to orders, and he was sentenced to hard labor for eight months and to forfeit eighty dollars.

This is one of the many cases which are of frequent occurrence and which are a disgrace to our army. Of course I don't want it to be imagined for a moment that all officers in the army are tyrannical or oppressive. Certainly not. As in every other profession, there are good and bad wearing the shoulder stripes. But from my experience I can say without fear of contradiction that both good and bad trample alike on army regulations every day in the week and can continue to do so with impunity as long as reports or complaints to superiors from enlisted men must pass open through their hands.

There are other reasons for desertion I admit, but this I hold is the chief one, overtopping all the others.

OUR ARGENTINE RIVAL.

ONE of those economical phenomena which periodically disturb the industrial world is now presented in the enormous growth of the trade of the Argentine Republic in South America. Curiously, at the present time, the financial needs and demands of this rich agricultural region have caused securities to fall on all the European continental bourses, as well as on the stock exchanges of both London and New York. The great Plate country is

drawing gold from London. The Bank of England raises its rate of interest in order to check the outflow. The consequences are that 10 per cent a day is the charge for carrying American securities in London, and so that Babylon of banking cities ships them home to New York and a market. Argentine borrowings in Europe have risen to phenomenal proportions. Meanwhile the interest to us in all this phenomenal financiering—in this second edition of George Law's Panama scheme, or the catastrophic South Sea bubble—is the fact that all these millions of gold and paper now rushing to fresh fields of economical expenditure on the banks of the Rio de la Plata are to be returned to Europe transmuted into grain, provisions, wool, hides and coffee. So that, unless a terrible financial fiasco is to result from these investments of European capital, in a few years South America will beat India out of sight as a competitor of our agricultural industry. Here we have a country most of which a few years since was in possession of Indian tribes, and which did not contain half the population of the city of London, now competing in the money markets of the world with the most powerful nations for means to develop resources which are all but unlimited. The Argentine Republic extends over an area as great as all Central and Western Europe combined; its fertility, together with the yet undeveloped wealth of its mineral resources, indicates that it is well able to sustain as numerous a population as the part of Europe alluded to; its extent in latitude is greater than that of any other existing country if we except the comparatively useless foreign regions of British America and of the Russian Empire. This is the country which, having exhausted the spare gold of Europe, is now tapping the enormous hoard which the United States at present controls, and which in turn is to be used in order to build up a new rival not only to our farming community in the markets of the world, but to our railways as transporters of our agricultural products.—*Chicago News.*

Twenty-five presidential terms will have ended on March 4 next.

Mr. Gladstone has been examining his correspondence, and, after having destroyed a very large number of letters, has set aside 60,000 for preservation in a fire-proof room which he has had built.