OLD FRIENDS MEET.

His name was "Colly;" he and I were young together. When I was a young man I went several times to India as supercargo, and once, in the year 1832, as I was about to sail from Boston to Calcutta on my third voyage, at the age of 22, a man came to me who wished to import an elephant and asked me to take an order from him to buy a large elephant and bring it home to him.

We made an agreement and signed a written contract, which stated that the elephant's height should be measured at his shoulder, a certain price to be paid for ten feet in height, with $100 added for every inch beyond 10 feet, and $100 less for every inch less.

After I reached Calcutta and attended to business connected with the ship's return cargo, I started one day to go to an indigo plantation about seventy miles up the River Hooghly, where, I was told, a man lived who had a herd of elephants.

He received me most hospitably, and took me out to a grove where he kept about twelve elephants of different sizes and ages, each chained by one hind leg to a tree. He invited me to make my own choice among them; but as I was quite ignorant of their valuable points, and I had not the slightest idea how to judge of them, I told him I would prefer to have him select one for me. This, however, he refused to do, saying that he would not take the risk; and so I finally pointed to a fine, large fellow, who seemed not too old (he was about 30 years old), and said: "There's the one I want."

"Oh," said the owner, "how came you to choose him? I would rather give up any of the others, for he is my finest and bravest tiger hunter, and I really don't want to spare him."

I stood firm, and declared that I would have that one or none, and so we closed our bargain. The huge creature measured at the shoulder 10 feet and 1 inch, and I paid for him 1,200 rupees—equal at that time to about $600 I then arranged for his native keeper, or mahout, to come with me to Boston.

I had a house or pen built for him on deck, knowing that we should arrive off the New England coast in winter weather. I had a warm covering made for him and thickly wadded with cotton. Fancy an elephant dressed in wadded pajamas!

They swam him down the river nearly all the way from the plantation and kept him for a few days outside of Calcutta, until all was ready. There they put on him a heavy belt, or girth, which I had had made of four thicknesses of canvas with heavy iron rings at the top, and he was driven to the dock after sunset, as it was forbidden to bring an elephant into the town by day.

At the dock we had a crane such as is used for hoisting heavy goods, and, its strong hooks being lowered and caught into the iron rings on the elephant's waistband, the poor old fellow, trumpeting with terror and dismay, was swung like a monstrous bale of goods into the big pen on deck where he was to spend the next six months at sea.

He stayed there very comfortably through the long voyage, petted by all on board. He and I became great friends, and every morning when I went t ohis pen to talk to him, I carried in my pockets some pieces of ship biscuit, which he learned to find and take out with his trunk.

His usual food was either rice or gram (a kind of dried peas) and we had a large quantity on board for his use. After cooking it, the mahout would make a sort of hen's nest of hay, fill it with the cooked grain, and lay it as far inside the elephant's mouth as his hand could reach. Eight or ten of these "bird's-nest puddings" were needed for one meal; and when Colly wanted a glass of water he would draw up into his trunk a whole pailfull at one draught, and then, turning the end of his trunk into his mouth, squirt it down his throat.

The mahout had a large shovel to use for cleaning out the pen, and one day when he had left it standing at one side, Colly took it up by curling his trunk into the hole in the handle and began to scratch himself with the blade all over his sides and wherever he could reach. After that he would never let the mahout have the shovel, but kept it for his own "backscratcher."

At last our long voyage was over and we arrived safely at Boston. Colly was as anxious as every one else to go ashore, and a wide heavy gangway or landing stage was placed from the ship to the pier for him to walk ashore; but he had only taken one step when he felt the planking sag under his weight. He drew back, and the mahout, with all his cries and urging—even jabbing him with a sharp goad—could not make him venture further than to try it with one fore foot. I told the man to keep quiet and wait and let him take his own way, for I was sure he would be as glad to be on land, as we would be to have him get there.

Before long he began to feel his way again, cautiously pressing on the gangway with both fore feet; then kneeling down on all four knees, he hitched himself along in that position all the way across to the pier. It seemed wonderful that he should know that by spreading the weight of his body over a large surface he could get over more safely than by bearing on his feet.

He was then delivered to his new owner, who kept him for a short time in an old barn in East Boston. I went there two or three times and took friends to see my big pet, whom I was very sorry to lose sight of, when he was soon after removed to parts unknown.

Six years later I went to a circus in Havana. Walking through a side passage of the rambling old building I came out in a place where I saw an elephant beyond. As I looked at him I seemed to see a likeness to my old pet of six years before, and I called out to him, "Colly!"

Immediately he raised his head and looked toward me, moving his great ears forward in excitement. As I drew nearer to him a keeper appeared and called out to me to keep away. "Don't go near that elephant!" he said, "He's very cross to-day, and I dare not go near him myself."

But without realizing my danger, I had already come within the huge creature's reach, and before I could withdraw he put his trunk around my waist, and drawing me gently up to him between his tusks held me pressed against his forehead as tenderly as a human mother would hold her child. I patted him and talked to him, but I was glad enough when he unwound his trunk from my body and let me go.

Then he began feeling about with his trunk for my sea jacket pockets, where he used to find ship biscuits at sea, and I called to an old black woman who sat near by with cakes for sale, and bought out her whole stock to feed the good old friend who had remembered me so many years.

The keeper watched all this scene in great excitement, and finally came forward, begging to tell him what it meant. "For," said he, "I would not have given a farthing for your life when I saw you in the elephant's grasp."

"Oh," said I, "he is an older friend of mine than he is of yours," and then I told him the story of my old acquaintance with Colly and of our long voyage together six years before.

When I turned to leave the place the dear old fellow stretched his head forward to see me as long as he could, seeming to wish I would stay with him, but after one look backward at the noble creature I turned a corner and never sa whim again.

THE GERMAN EMPEROR.

Change of Heart in His Feelings Towards Englishmen.

Notwithstanding his headstrong absurdities and his occasional mistakes, the German Emperor is of sufficient importance in Europe to make it a matter of gratification that he appears to be considering his ways. The British nation did not by any means succumb to his belligerent cablegram to President Kruger, and when the response to the general state of things which that missive provoked was Britain's fitting out of the flying squadron in a few days, the Government that took that step was universally applauded in the United Kingdom. Nevertheless, as it did not seem quite satisfactory for Germany, the historic ally of England, to be against her, and for the Queen's grandson to be fuming himself into a bad temper, the signs of his returning to himself and to a proper consideration of things cannot but be regarded with satisfaction. On the 200th anniversary of the birth of Keith, the brave Scotchman, who was a Field Marshal in the Prussian army, and who fell in the disastrous defeat of Frederick the Great at Hochkirchen, those who celebrated the event at Peterhead were surprised and delighted by a message from the Kaiser, in which he spoke of the kinship between Britons and Germans. Apparently there has been a revulsion of feeling in the Imperial breast as to the sentiment that "blood is thicker than water," for again we find him sending a wreath to the First (British Royal) Dragoons, of which he is honorary colonel. At the time of the bitter feeling caused by the Kruger message the young officers of that regiment tore the portrait of their honorary colonel from the wall of their mess-room and flung it into the fire. And now the Kaiser "gets back" at them by sending them flowers to adorn their colours on the anniversary of Waterloo, thus not only showing himself able to rise above their insult, but proving himself to be somewhat chivalrous. And there is nothing in the German Emperor's history to afford a basis to the sneer that his change of heart is the result of calculation and craft. Wilhelm is not built that way.

METAPHORS BADLY MIXED.

Jumble Made by An Oriental Lawyer Addressing the Court.

A native pleader in India in a recent case before a local magistrate, got his metaphors entangled in this extraordinary style: —

"My learned friend, with mere wind from a teapot, thinks to browbeat me from my legs. But this is mere gorilla warfare. I stand under the shoes of my client, and only seek to place my bone of contention clearly in your honour's eye. My learned friend vainly runs amuck upon the sheet anchors of my case. Your honour will be pleased enough to observe that my client is a widow, a poor chap with one post-mortem son. A widow of this country is not able to eat more than one meal a day, or to wear clean clothes, or to look after a man. So my poor client had not such physic or mind as to be able to assault the lusty complainant. Yet she has been deprived of some of her more valuable leather, the leather of her nose. My learned friend has thrown only an argument ad hominy upon my teeth, that my client's witnesses are all her own relations. But they are not near relations. Their relationship is only homeopathic. So the misty arguments of my learned friend will not hold water. At least they will not hold good water. Then my learned has said that there is on the side of his client a respectable witness, viz., a pleader, and since the witness is independent so he should be believed. But your honour, with your honour's vast experience, is pleased enough to observe that truthfulness is not so plentiful as blackberries in this country. And I am sorry to say, though this witness is a man of my own feathers, that there are in my profession black sheep of every complexion, and some of them do not always speak the Gospel truth. Until the witness explains what has become of my client's nose leather he cannot be believed. He cannot be allowed to raise a castle in the air by beating upon a bush. So, trusting in that administration of British justice on which the sun never sits, I close my case."

THE ARMIES OF THE WORLD

THEIR STRENGTH, ORGANIZATION, AND EQUIPMENT.

A Valuable Summary of the Military Establishments of Various Nations—Magazine Rifles—Small Calibres—Cavalry Equipments—Uses of Aluminium.

There is a treasure of condensed information in the "Notes on Organization, Armament, and Military Progress" just issued by the United States.

In glancing along the list of countries reviewed, the eye naturally rests at this time, upon Spain. To this country is ascribed a population of 17,560,000, with an army strength proper, in rank and file alone, of 84,000 for the year 1895-96. But this last does not include the "guardia civil," or gendarmarie, or the colonial forces; and according to the army list for January of this year, the rank and file, including the guardia civil, etc., numbered 113,551; the first reserve, all trained, 63,212; the second reserve, of whom a little over one-third have had military instruction, 548,234. This would give an aggregate of 724,997 trained and untrained, taking the army and its reserves. But an estimate by "a foreign staff officer" is added which puts the total of trained men at 414,675, including both reserves, with about 175,000 for untrained men, "condicionales."

In any case it appears that the first reserve has been heavily drawn on for Cuba, because the Notes say that "over 100,000 men" were sent thither in 1895-96, and presumably the permanent forces were not absolutely derived from the peninsula.

THE NORMAL STRENGTH

of the permanent army in the island is put at 981 officers and 19,199 men, but volunteers and militia are said to have increased the total strength to 59,000 apart from the heavy forces sent from Spain. Finally, the total "army of operations" in Cuba on Dec. 1, 1895, is put at 92,413, while about March 1, 1896 including perhaps 20,000 sent thither Feb. 12 preceding, it was about 118,730. It is added that four or five per cent. may be deducted for losses.

Taking other countries alphabetically, the Austro-Hungarian army is found to have a grand total of 349,000 officers and men on its peace footing, while its war budget for 1895-96 was $56,100,000. Little Belgium's budget for 1895 was $9,115,322, while her available peace strength at a recent date was estimated at 3,505 officers and 48,648 men, with a militia of 34,359 men. England, including India, showed recently 368,846 effectives of all ranks, while army reserves and militia brought the establishment for 1895-96 up to 865,421, with effectives amounting to 816,853. Her annual military budget is put in round numbers at $89,000,000.

The war expenditure of France for 1895 is put at $123,000,000, and the total net effectives of her active army at 524,768. Germany, according to this authority, has the still heavier peace strength of 584,734 officers and men of all grades. Then comes a great drop to Holland's home army of 21,500 men. However, the Netherlands also possesses

TWO COLONIAL ARMIES,

the East Indian and the West Indian, the former of which numbers about 1,400 officers and 34,000 men. The war budget amounts in round numbers to $9,132,000. The average effective peace footing of Italy, as limited by the budget for the year ending June 30, 1895, was 222,275 of all ranks, counting employees. The full organic strength, however, was about 276,000. Russia heads the list of enormous military establishments with a peace footing of about 880,000 of all ranks, to which may be added 30,000 frontier guards. Her budget for 1896 amounts to nearly $230,000,000.

Switzerland furnishes an example of a different, yet effective system. This small republic, whose Constitution prohibits a standing army, adopts a militia system pure and simple, but carries its military training as far as that of some standing armies. From the age of 10 until they leave the primary schools all boys receive gymnastic instruction, which includes drill in the manual of arms. Then further gymnastic instruction is given, until their twentieth year, and there are also voluntary cadet corps of schoolboys. Of the regular military service first comes the elite, lasting from the completed twentieth through the thirty-second year; then the landwehr, through the forty-fourth year; finally the landsturm, through the fiftieth year, it also including youths between 17 and 20 years of age. Last year there were 137,649 in the elite, 80,602 in the landwehr, and 270,363 in the landsturm, of whom, however, only 61,224 were armed. This establishment was kept up on a budget which for 1895-96 carried 22,769,529 francs.

Turning to countries on this side of of the water, we find that Mexico has a regular army of about 23,000 officers and men, including the National Guard and some auxiliaries and employees. The recruiting is done partly by

VOLUNTARY ENLISTMENT,

partly by conscription in the States, and partly by sentencing criminals to army service. The budget for 1895-96 appropriated $9,130,649.08, reckoned in Mexican dollars. Colombia's peace establishment was formerly about 5,000 men, but it is said that this force has since probably been doubled. The soldiers are all Indians, recruited by impressment.

The notes on small arms form a valuable part of this work. One table, obviously complied with great care from official data, gives the weights and dimensions of the various infantry weapons. It shows in general that the smaller States which have but recently rearmed their troops, have very generally taken to decreased calibres. Thus Mexico, Brazil, and Chili have the .276 Mauser, Holland, Sweden, and Roumania the Mannlicher, .256, Norway the Krag-Jorgensen .256. This last is interesting, as we have the Krag-Jorgensen, .30, for our army. Spain has the .276 Mauser, and Italy the .276 Parravicino-Carcano. The smallest caliber is in our navy .236 Lee.

It is suggested that, should these small calibres show their superiority, countries like Germany, France, and Russia will have to re-arm with them in spite of the cost. But voices from various quarters are heard against further reduction. China in her last war used mostly Hotchkiss .45 magazine rifles, made by the Winchester Arms Company; but there were various other rifles employed, besides old-time wall pieces, petronels, tridents, and arrows. Japan had her .315 Murata magazine rifle, but is seems that up to March 1, 1895, the single-loader .433 was in use.

The countries of South America have shown themselves alive to modern small arms, and statistics are given to show that Brazil, Chili, and Argentina are far better provided with them than the United States. One Berlin company has delivered to Argentina 150,000 Mauser rifles and 10,000 carbines, while Krupp has delivered

300 FIELD PIECES.

Brazil has 145,000 small calibre rifles, 5,000 carbines, and 300 Krupp field pieces. Chili has, or will soon have, it is thought, 120,000 Mauser rifles, 10,000 carbines, and 290 field guns.

Canada has purchased of the British War Office 40,000 Lee-Enfield magazine rifles and 2,300 carbines, 24 12-pounder guns, 50 Maxim guns, with 5,500,000 pounds for the latter and 18,000,000 of rifle ammunition, and so on. The cost of these and other items was $2,000,000.

Turning to Europe, a new Austria rifle is spoken of, of about .196, or far smaller than even our Lee navy rifle, but it is not yet adopted. In England enough magazine rifles have been completed to arm the entire regular forces and also the militia. Very full accounts are given of the comparative trials of the Martini-Henry and the Lee-Metford. Germany is said to be adding to her rifle a device to prevent the danger of double feed. Holland has armed her troops as has been noted, with the .256 Mannlicher. Italy presents a rifle invented by Capt. Cei for which great claims are made. Russia is content with a .30 rifle, hers being known as the Monzin. Of course, enormous sums will be required for her supply. Turkey has recently ordered 200,000 Spanish Mausers of calibre .301.

The notes on equipment declare that in the matter of neat, attractive-looking stables the English, Germans, and Austrians take the lead in the order named. The stables are paved, the horses have good bedding, and neatly plaited straw braid is put along the heelposts and elsewhere where a horse might be injured. Saddles and other articles of horse equipment and artillery harness are the natural buff of the leather in all European services. Halter shanks for garrison use are made not of leather, but of rope, which is stronger and cheaper.

THE ENGLISH AND FRENCH

carry the carbine in a boot on the off side, hanging vertically, but the Belgians and Austrians carry it slung over the back. The Germans carry it like the English when mounted, but the carbine has a sling for carrying it on the back if dismounted. In foreign services privates do not usually carry revolvers. At Woolwich, cadets in practise at moving targets use the revolver with either hand. The Germans carry the sabre attached to the saddle behind the left thigh, and some squadrons have scabbards of wood covered with black rubber instead of steel, as being less conspicuous and noiseless. The Belgians carry the sabre with a V-shaped strap, with a frog on the rear side of the saddle.

In foreign services both a curb bit and bridoon are used, and the horses are well trained. Their curbed bit is usually very heavy, notably the German, in the mouth-piece, but the Austrians have a light bit. As to horseshoes, the English and Belgians, instead of throwing away the half-worn shoes, make them over, and consider them more durable than new ones. The saddle generally used is the English riding saddle or some modification of it, with often a sort of pad about the edge of the side flaps in front of the knee. A pair of pouches at the pommel seems to be preferred to saddlebags.

The Austrians have recently adopted a light, strong water-proof linen shelter tent, rifles and fixed bayonets constituting the tent poles. The pieces can in an emergency be used as a storm coat. The so-called Tortoise tents, made in London, accommodate many men for the weight of canvas, and the Kamtschatka tent is also worth noting. Inflated sacks or balloons are used for helping to cross streams in Hungary. Iron bedsteads without springs and bed sacks stuffed with straw seem to be the rule in Europe. In a Garde regiment in Berlin bread and coffee are served at each meal, with meat and peas for dinner and meat on Tuesdays and Thursdays at supper and anything more the soldier bought out of his pay.

For infantry equipment the cowhide knapsack with hair on the outside seems universal in Europe, and there is constant drill with the full pack.

THE RULERS OF ENGLAND.

Kings have governed England for 698 years, queens for 120, and protectors for eleven years. The average reign of the kings has been twenty-three and a half years, of the queens thirty years, the average reign of all the sovereigns being between twenty-three and twenty-four years. The average reign of the kings of the Angevin dynasty—thirty and a half years—is greater than that of any other reigning family, although the average reign of the house of Brunswick very nearly approaches it. The average of the Yorkist kings—eight years—is the least of all. Four sovereigns of England have been of the Norman dynasty, and reigned eighty-eight years; eight were Angevins, or Plantagenets, and reigned 245 years; three were of the house of Lancaster, and reigned sixty-two years; three of that of York, and reigned twenty-four years; five were Tudors, and reigned ninety-nine years, and there have been six sovereigns of the house of Brunswick, which has existed now for 181 years.

SUSPICIOUS

Don't you think Jorkins is very attentive to his wife?

Yes; people are beginning to remark it.

FROZEN MILK IN BLOCKS.

Copenhagen Is Building a Plant for Its Manufacture.

Milk may be bought by the brick in summer, just the same as some kinds of ice cream. It will be frozen solid, though, and if intended for use as soon as received in the household the lacteal fluid for the tea or coffee will have to be chipped off with the handle of the knife or fork, according to the quantity desired in the drink. Perhaps the frozen milk may be seen in cubes, like sugar, or in pats, like butter, and a man may order a lump of milk with his coffee and rolls, as well as a lump of sugar or "another pat of butter, please."

From a fad frozen milk has grown to be more or less of a necessity in the warmer countries in Europe. It is claimed that if the milk should be first frozen, it is just as impervious to the gathering of disease germs as is boiled milk or water.

Many persons do not take kindly to the idea of frozen milk, or even preserved milk. Fresh milk in cans, they claim, can be kept fresh for sixteen hours, and if it does not remain sweet for that length of time, they conclude that the milk was not fresh when poured into the cans, or that the cans were not clean.

The trade in foreign importations of frozen milk and cream is yet in its infancy, but advices recently received indicate that the industry will be speedily developed to greater proportions, especially in Holland. The Belgian Government designs to increase the trade at an annual outlay of $50,000, and in Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, a company has been formed and arrangements have been completed for the regular export of frozen milk. The necessary plant has been erected, and contracts have been made already for the delivery of 110,000 pounds per week, which will be sent to all parts of the world in bricks or blocks like ice.

If the lines laid down in European countries were closely followed the health inspector would arrange these lists so that simultaneous occurrence of infectious diseases in a number of families served by the same ice-man would be promptly discovered and the mischief checked.

FRENCH AIR FOR BABIES.

A sweet young mother said to me once: "From the time my children are a few weeks old they live in the open air. Nothing but driving rain ever keeps them in."

When I saw the rosy boys and girls around her, and thought of the many pale-faced babies I knew whose too busy and too careful mothers keep them shut up in furnace-heated houses from fall until spring, I thought her very wise. As a rule, our little ones are far too carefully housed. In the sunny climate of California, where doors and windows are always open, and where many invalids live in tents from year's end to year's end, the diseases of children are unknown. Measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, mumps, whooping cough and that dread enemy to our babies, croup are seldom mentioned in that land of roses and eternal sunshine. With the exception of the two weeks of showery weather called the winter or rainy season, there is not a day in which a baby could not be out in that balmy air.

There is no greater preventive of croup or of heavy colds than to give a baby, if only for ten minutes, a total change of temperature. Like hot-house flowers, if kept too long in the house, they will become too delicate to endure any other atmosphere.

The health of her child should be to every true mother the most important consideration of her life. No self-sacrifice is too great, no work too arduous to secure that greatest of blessings. The world would not be filled with so many nervous men and women to-day if women were more carefully trained in matters of hygiene. And right here, I cannot forbear speaking a word against the soft, dazzling white rugs which look so pretty and luxurious in baby's carriage. An eminent oculist declared that these fur rugs cause many diseases of the eyes. The poor little one, blinking and fretting in its dainty wrappings, cannot speak and tell the cause of its misery, but if we put ourselves literally in its place for a few moments only, we would not find it hard to discover.—Katharine Seip.

AT FIRST SIGHT.

Impressions of Men Whose Sight Has Been Restored.

Blind people's first experience of sight are curious.

An old man in Pembroke who was born blind, received his sight by the removal of the cataract. When the bandage was first removed, the patient started violently, and cried out as if with fear and for a while was quite nervous from the effects of the shock. For the first time in his life he looked upon the earth.

The first thing he noticed was a flock of sparrows. In relating his experience, he said that he thought they were teacups, although a few moments afterwards he readily distinguished a watch which was shown to him. It is supposed that this recognition was owing to the fact that he heard it ticking.

The blaze from a lamp excited the most lively surprise in his mind. He had no idea what it was, and when it was brought near wanted to pick it up. When night approached upon the day when he first used his eyes, he was in a fright, fearing that he was losing the sight which he had so wonderfully found after sixty years of darkness.

EVIDENTLY IN EARNEST.

Gotham Dame—Do you think Mr. Nicefellow is in earnest?

Daughter—I guesso. He asked me last evening which one of your daughters was your pet, and I told him that I thought that if all three were married you would rather live with Clara or Dora than with me."