# AN' ACCOMPLISHED MAN.

#### General Verdy du Vernols, Germany's New War Minister.

It is strange that the new German Minister of War should be the bearer of a French name. Even in his personal appearance General Verdy du Vernois is far more like the traditional good-humored French Major who plays so important a role in the Parisian farces and vaudevilles than one of those wooden soldiers who are the ideal of the Prussian army. He is short, very and possesses a pair of exceedingly mischievous and clever eyes. He is a kind of Ward McAllister of

the German army, and no one is able two other schools at Bowes, one at Gilto excel him in the organization of balls, theatricals, picnics and other kinds of social entertainments. Not only does he write poems and very witty epigrams, but he is also the author of quite a number of plays, and has even a great reputation among the fair the premises. But in other respects sex of Berlin as the designer of many a | the evidence was so conflicting that we charming and graceful toilet.

It must not be thought, however, from all this, that the General devotes his time exclusively to such trivialities, for he has published a great many important military writings, most of which have been adopted by the vari ous war departments of Europe as standard works for the staff schools.

Perhaps the most important of all, or, at any rate, the one which attracted most attention, was a thick pamplet, entitled "Tactical Retrospects" (Taktische Ruckblicke), which contained a sharp and exceedingly clever criticism of the tactics and strategy of the Prussian army in the war of 1866. Although it appeared anonymously at the time, yet it was universally attributed to the distinguished officer who has now become Minister of War at Berlin.

General Verdy du Vernois commenced his career at the School of Cadets at Potsdam and shortly after entering the army was attached to the suite of the Russian Governor-General of Poland, at whose side he passed through the whole of the great Polish insurrection. The report which he furnished of the same to the War Office at Berlin attracted so much attention that on his return he was appointed one of the professors of strategy at the Military Academy there. It is a curious coincidence that General Bronsart von Schellendorf was likewise a professor there at the same time.

In 1868 Verdy du Vernois, who had meanwhile advanced to the rank of Major, was attached to the headquarters staff. He greatly distinguished himself during the Franco-German war, at the close of which he was promoted to the rank of Major-General.

In 1872 he underwent a temporary disgrace which resulted in his being transferred from the metropolis to the dreary and dismal fortress of Konigsberg. The causes of his disgrace were the rumors current at the time to the effect that he had availed himself of his knowledge of what was going on at the War Office to give a timely hint to one of the most prominent financiers at Berlin, who was enabled thereby to realize an exceedingly handsome sum on the Stock Exchange. Although the matter was never actually brought home to Verdy du Vernois, yet the fact remains that he since then has been very well off, notwithstanding that up to that time neither his wife nor himself had been known to possess any fortune of their own. So remarkable, however, were his talents as a military author that a couple of years later it was found necessary to recall him to the War Office at Berlin to assume charge of the editing of the General Staff History of the Franco-German war. For the past three years he has been the Military Governor of Alsace-Lorraine, and is reputed to possess a more profound knowledge of every point of Germany's westers frontier than any other officer in the army. Indeed his appointment to the control of the Imperial War Department shows a remarkable piece of cleverness on the part of Emperor William II.-N. Y. Journal.

### DOTHEBOYS HALL.

# New Facts Concerning Squeers and the School Described by Dickens.

All our informants - country clerdid not feel themselves in honor tem of Yorkshire schools was monstout, somewhat apoplectic looking London parents-but that the school bad been borrowed by a neighbor. typified by Charles Dickens was the only

one to which he could gain access, and was the best of the lot. There were monby, one at Cotherstone, and one at Barnard Castle: and the proprietors of these, suspecting the presence of a famous literary Londoner among them, refused him admittance; but at Shaw's he was made welcome and shown over must simply give it without pronouncing any opinion on its value or the reverse. For instance, one woman, a native of Bowes, whose sympathies one would naturally imagine to be with the maligned Squeers, told us that she distinctly remembered the boys coming in summer time to her father's fields to help get in the hay, goaded to the work of horses by ushers armed with whips. On the other hand, a gentleman whose father, being a schoolmaster, used to go up to the Saracen's Head with and on the same errand as Squeers, declared that the one-eyed schoolmaster was an estimable man. who cared for his pupils properly, and was generally respected and liked. He further stated that his father related to him how he happened to be at the Saracen's Head with Squeers after the Dotheboys Hall numbers of "Nicholas Nickleby" had taken the public by storm; that the crowd literally besieged the inn, with the intention of lynching Squeers; that the commotion had such an effect upon

the schoolmaster as to deprive him of reason, and that Mrs. Squeers died of a broken heart. Another gentlemanonce in holy orders-told us that he was at Bowes Grammar School contemporaneously with the existence of Shaw's school, that Shaw was knowt as the "King of the Road," because every half year he hired a special coact to bring his pupils from London, and that the arrival of this coach at Bowes was the occasion of universal excitetemporaneously with the existence of was the occasion of universal excitement and enthusiasm. He furthermore cited, as a proof that Shaw was maligned as to his treatment of his pupils, that great rivalry always existed between the grammar school boys and those of Dotheboys Hall; that they played tre-

mendous foot-ball matches together, and that every Easter Sunday it was a custom to appear in new suits and to pelt each other with Easter eggs. A fourth informant told us that the deaths at Shaw's school were frequent: that a large proportion of the boys were maimed by ill usage, and that the neighboring cottages were continually giving shelter to runaways. A fifth spoke of the prototype of Fanny Squeers as a woman universally be loved and respected, who did infinite good among the poor and sick of the parish. All, however, spoke of Shat as a man subject to fits of violent passion, and admitted that he was addicted to using the cane unmercifully when under these influences. In other instances when we ventured to propound questions to more illiterate folks, we found that without committing themselves to giving any definite opinion, they tried to evade the questions, and thereby tacitly admitted that there was a great deal more truth in what Dickens had written than their local patriotism allowed them to express The graves of "Squeers," his wife, of "Fanny Squeers," and of young "Wackford." who died at the age of twentyfour, are to be seen in Bowes churchyard. The late assistant station master at Barnard Castle, MacKay by name, was said to be a son of the original of Nicholas Nickleby. John Browdie was one John Todd, of Barningham, and died not very long ago, and the original of poor Smike is said to have died during the year 1885, aged seventy-four.-Temple Bar.

-There is nothing so bad in a pocket as a hole, and the same observation may be made of a bag. A tear gymen, intelligent residents, "oldest may be sewed up and be as good as inhabitants," and such natives as ever, but a bag that has had a year's use and has holes worn in it will very bound to keep their mouths shut quickly waste grain enough to pay for agreed on one point, that the sys- a new one. It was the remark of a careful farmer that the only thing on strous and iniquitous to an incredible his farm he was on principle opposed extent; that frightful crueities were to lending was bags. He always knew practiced upon the boys-who were those he had in use were whole, but chiefly the illegitimate offspring of could never be sure of this after they

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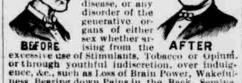
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## RIPENED MEATS.

Why Fowls Should Not be Esten Immediately After They Are Killed. star

People accustomed to fowl and other meats bought in the markets are apt to be disappointed in the quality of the chicken they raise themselves with great care and expectation. To their surprise they find it not so tender and of less delicate flavor, and pleasant anticipations of rewards of country or suburban life are to this extent cruelly crushed. The principal reason is, the unripe condition in which homedressed fowl is almost invariably cooked. Caterers who appreciate the advantage of pleasing their customers do not serve them with recently slaughtered meats. Epicures prefer that all meats, especially fowl and game, be kept as long as possible without becoming actually tainted.

If a lady will provide a suitable refrigerator and ripen the meat before she cooks it, she will learn with experience that an old fowl well ripened is a daintier morsel than the finest chicken just slain. One reason, and a very potent one, why Western-dressed beef is crowding domestic meats out of our local markets is that it is more thoroughly ripened. Our local butchers do not provide themelves with the means of perfecting their meats before putting them into the retail markets, while the others come to them already much improved by time. Immense quantities of meat were formerly sold the same day it was slaughtered, and while still unfit for food for any body but savages -O S. Bliss, in N. Y. Tribune.

18

### Stranger Than Fiction.

A retired clergyman, the sands of whose life have nearly run out, writes to us as follows: "In the year 1879 1 was pastor of a church in Herkimer. One Sabbath, having made a call upon a parishioner who was very ill, I was detained in my preparation for the morning service, and just as the second bell was ringing a collar button, which I was endeavoring to force through a new three ply linen collar, exceedingly stiff and with rather a small button hole, slipped from my fingers and fell to the floor. \* Casting my eyes in the direction which it would naturally take, I saw the button lying in plain view close to my foot, just where I expected to see it. I picked it up, fastened my collar with little or no trouble, and leisurely walking to the church arrived there in ample time, not in the least excited or hurried, and conducted the service as usual." "The bearings of this observation lays in the application of it."-Brooklyn Eagle.

-Two men from the marshy districts of Tennessee, stood looking in at the window of a Chicago restaurant. One of them, with a movement of surprise. pointed at a lobster and exclaimed. Great Casar, Lige, look thar! You may talk about tall buildin's an' al' that, but I'll be blamed of that isn't the Liggest crawfish I ever saw. Jes' look at him. Bet a hoss he could pinch a sow's year off with them things us hiz's."-Arkansaw Traveler.

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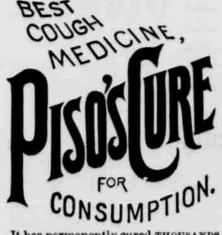
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