

Sultan of Zanzibar, and about one hundred and thirty miles from that capital. It is also a mission station. During the last few months the chief of Mombassa, Mahomed ben Abdallah, has been in revolt against the authority of the Sultan, and some time ago he took possession of the fort and shut himself up there with his followers, namely, four hundred fighting men and six hundred and fifty women and children. In the early part of January he sent his men into the town to loot, and on another occasion burnt a large portion of the town, and destroyed some property of British subjects, the Sultan being quite unable to dislodge him. On the news of these outrages arriving at Zanzibar, the Consul-General (Captain Prideaux), requested a man of war to be sent there without delay, and the *Rifleman*, Commander Stratford Tuke, was despatched by the senior naval officer to afford the needed protection to British subjects. It should be observed that the *Rifleman* had been to Mombassa once or twice before to watch the movements of the rebel.

The *Rifleman* arrived at Mombassa on the 18th of Jan. at noon, and passed the fort with her guns loaded and manned. The fort, however, did not open fire, though armed, as we understand, with modern artillery. In the meantime Commander Tuke had communicated with the Rev. Mr. Sparshott, of the Church Missionary Society, and the leading Banyans, and offered them refuge on board the *Rifleman*, but as they did not anticipate any personal violence, the offer was declined. The *Nassau* having also arrived from Zanzibar with Her Majesty's Consul-General (Captain Prideaux), Captain George L. Sullivan, of the *London*, storeship, and 800 officers and small arms men and field guns, the Consul-General immediately communicated with the rebel chief, and demanded the surrender of the fort to the Sultan's governor. This he flatly refused to do, and even repeated his refusal on being told that the place would be shelled. At the request of H. M.'s Consul-General, Captain Sullivan then got his ships into position, at about 1800 yards from the fort, and first the *Nassau*, then the *Rifleman*, opened fire. Three rocket boats also laid off and fired into the fort, regardless of the shower of slugs with which they were greeted.

The fort, being very strong the firing appeared to be making little impression. It was built in 1565, by the Portuguese, and mounted forty-eight guns, chiefly 18-pounders, but a few of them 64-pounders. It was, therefore, the strongest fort by far in that part of the world. As little impression seemed to have been made out of range of the fort, the ships moved further in, to about 800 yards distance; the *Nassau*, with the senior officer on board, leading. As her guns were only 20-pounders, and effected but little damage, Commander Tuke asked permission to pass the *Nassau*, and proceeded right under the fort, within the harbour, and at 200 yards distance made excellent practice. The fort returned the fire with vigour, both with large guns and small arms, one round shot passing very close to Commander Tuke's head. The *Rifleman* remained firing her 7-inch gun (the only effective gun) and two 20-pounders under the fort for 34 min., when one double shell from the 7-inch gun knocked down a turret with fifty men in it, and blew them up, dismounted a gun, and knocked away a portion of the fort. This state of our quality compelled Abdallah to surrender.

The *Rifleman* had on board fifty small arms men from the *London*, under command of Lieutenant Hamilton. These men did good service by keeping up a tremendous

fire on the embrasures of the fort, so much so that the Arabs were afraid to stand to their guns. After the surrender the ships proceeded into the inner anchorage and anchored. On the 20th January the fort was formally taken possession of by the Consul-General on behalf of the Sultan of Zanzibar, supported by two hundred small-arms men and Marines from the *London*, *Rifleman*, and *Nassau*, under the command of Capt. Sullivan. The rebel chief gave up the keys, and the Sultan's flag was hoisted under a general salute from the battalion. The small-arms men then marched back to the boats and re-embarked. Abdallah was taken on board the *Nassau* for conveyance to Zanzibar, while his followers, to the number of about a thousand, were embarked in dhows and sent to Pemba Island.

The fort had fifty killed and wounded, but strange to say the ships suffered no casualty. How the *Rifleman* escaped is one of those things no man can understand. The ships immediately left for Zanzibar, and arrived there on the 21st.

This bombardment, it is considered, will have the best effect up and down the coast; as it will show the chiefs under the Sultan, that Great Britain intends to support the Sultan's authority at any cost.

We have to thank our kind friend Mr. T. D. SULLIVAN (late 56th Regiment), Librarian and Assistant Secretary to "the Royal United Service Institution," for a copy of Captain J. C. R. COLONS's valuable pamphlet on "three smouldering questions"—"Naval Organisation, Military Organisation, and Colonial Defences."

Our readers are already familiar with the latter, and we shall at a future time refer to such facts of the former as will suit Colonial purposes.

We also see by the following notice that the Institution intends to keep up the system of prize Essays on most important subjects connected with the defences of the Empire.

Some of the officers of our militia are members and corresponding members of the Institution, and have a knowledge of the subject for this year. It would be a pleasant labour on our part to chronicle their efforts as essayists:

#### ROYAL UNITED SERVICE INSTITUTION—MEMORANDUM FOR 1875.

The Council having decided that a Gold Medal be granted annually for the best Essay on a Naval or a Military subject, to be determined on, each year, by the Council, make known the conditions of competition:—

(1) The Candidates must be Officers on Full, Half, Retired or Reserved Pay, or Members of the Institution.

(2) The Essays shall be on matters connected with the Army and Navy, alternately, the subject this year being a Naval one.

(3) The Essays must not exceed 48 pages of the size and style of the "Journal."

(4) The Essays must be forwarded to the Secretary, on or before the 1st November in each year.

(5) The Essays must be strictly anonymous, but each to have a Motto, and be accompanied by a sealed envelope with the Motto written on the outside, and the name of the Candidate inside.

(6) The Essays will be submitted for de-

cision to three Referees chosen by the Council.

(7) The successful Candidate will be presented with the Medal at the Anniversary Meeting, and his Essay will be printed in the "Journal."

(8) The subject for the following year will be announced in January.

The following is the subject for the Essay to be rendered on or before the 1st November, 1875.

On the best types of War-Vessels for the British Navy:—

Firstly. For Combined Action.

Secondly. For single Cruisers of great speed.

Thirdly. For Coast Defence.

By Order,

B. BRAGAS, Capt.,  
Secretary.

Whitehall Yard, London,  
6th March, 1875.

The following article from the *London Globe* of 1st March, in which it appeared under the title of "Museum Rumbles," shows what advantages students of the military art possess in "The Royal United Service Institution," and how desirable it would be to secure for our officers a similar organisation—or awaken amongst them a desire to become members of one that possesses such deserved prestige:

"The Museum of the Royal United Service Institution is one of whose existence probably very few Londoners unconnected with the two services are aware. Yet not only is it situated in the very centre of London, but it is really a very large collection of objects in which most Englishmen are commonly supposed to feel the deepest interest. It is within gun-shot of Trafalgar-square, nevertheless it often happens that the visitors to it do not number half-a-dozen in the course of the day. This, perhaps, is partly due to the fact that, according to strict regulations, admission is to be gained only by a member's order. If the experience of the writer may be regarded as a fair criterion, however, the regulation is one which does not present a very formidable obstacle in the way of any applicant, and the number actually finding their way in may probably be regarded as representing just about the number of applicants for admission.

The subject which this collection is primarily designed to illustrate is, of course, naval and military warfare, and, to a civilian, at least, the illustration appears to be a very thorough and comprehensive one. From the savage's war dress of skin and feathers to the latest improvement in armour plated vessels; from clubs and bows and arrows to the Gatling gun; the development of war material may be traced through almost every stage. Of the Gatling gun, by the way, there is here an actual specimen—not a model—having ten barrels and a range of 1,000 yards, capable of pouring out a torrent of bullets at the rate of 70 a minute by the mere turning of a handle, barrel organ fashion. This will be found in an inner room of the institution, the first section of which comprises a vast accumulation of the implements of savage warfare. From this the visitor will probably wander into the midst of models of the shipping of less than a generation ago, but which, as compared with the war vessels of the present day, seem almost as primitive as the clubs and boomerangs of the savage. The most "land-lubberly" of mortals could hardly fail to discover in this part of the museum innum-