

We are intimately indebted to S. H. S. for a copy of this "Fall" of the 21st of March, from which we extract the following letter, written by Colonel Whyte, who commanded the 7th, Q. O. Hussars, while they were in Canada, and who was a most accomplished sportsman. We shall make a point of taking this paper in future for it is really invaluable.

SPORTING IN AMERICA.

BY COLONEL WHYTE.

Sir,—I do not differ quite so much with Mr. Lort as he supposes. It was to the British provinces of North America only that I alluded when I advised the tourist to make the gun subordinate to the rod. They miles or less south of the boundary line the remarkable fishing ceases, and from that southward the gun, I follow, takes the first rank. As to the excellence of the shooting in America, *de gustibus non est disputandum*; but I do not recognize cock-shooting in July as cock-shooting "par excellence." It is not, in my mind, the slaughter of the bird itself that makes the sport. I want the keen bright air—the dead leaves cringing under my feet, in a smart frost—and the grand sea of health and delicately that provides my frame in this country, no necessities that are wanting in the sweetening of the American fall, in July. Green woods and meadows are not, in my mind, fitting accessories to cock-shooting.

It was not, however, to the cock that I alluded. When I spoke of a tame half-bred bird flying to my fifty yards, for the snipe, I take away from the written article too strongly; but most surely neither in vigour of flight nor weakness of either bird nor of the other compared to that of Great Britain.

As to the pest of mosquitoes, men's constitutions differ; nor do all suffer alike from the same insect. I care neither for black flies nor bugs, but the flea or the mosquito drives me mad. Other men exactly reverse this. Two ten years' accumulation of dirt of worthy John Brown I never tried but camp and ground I have; and either that, or tamper and boiled oil I found effective against the sandfly, or the midge or the country; but the mosquito exhibited the greatest indifference to it. A man thoroughly acclimated and dried in the West Indies and Florida, as Mr. Lort seems to be, may talk of letting galley-snippers take their fill of him, but I wrote for the information and exhortation of the plump and well-fed New York youth of England. And I say unto them again, put not your faith in compasses, neither in Lort. I grant it may so happen that the galley-sniper may not fancy you; but, certes, if he does, you will rue the day you left your veil behind you; and thought, as H. G. A. says, it is not a good wide-brimmed hat that it need not be difficult to see through, and as to your flies sticking in it, it is a consolation to think that they might otherwise have stuck in your face. I suspect Mr. Lort shoots more than he fishes. Now as long as you are in motion the mosquito is harmless; but get hard and fast in a good flesh, in nice sheltered position, with both hands well employed, and I think you will rue the day that you neglected my advice. The veil, well managed, is no incubance. It should be made round like a sock, without top or bottom, and lie on the brim of your hat. If you have to push through a cedar swamp—the only thick portion of a North American forest—put it in your pocket. However, gentle reader, if you are full of pluck and blood don't let me talk your fancy; by all means let the mosquitoes take their fill. At any rate, it will diminish any tendency to apoplexy.

A correspondent who signs himself "A.A." and is kind enough to say he read my letters with pleasure, requests me to tell him what I know of the sporting in Maine or New Orleans. I was once in Maine a short time; it was on my first arrival in America, and I had been purchasing horses for my regiment in Vermont. Finding they were getting scarce there, I expressed a wish to Col. Thomas (an American, who acted as my agent), to go deeper into the country, and explore the resources; and he, with the liberality and good-nature I found generally exhibited towards me by Americans, immediately ordered the loan of his horse and wagon. The nag was, he assured, a real ring-tailed squealer, that could walk into greased lightning; and the wagon he guessed, was considerable some—and certainly they were both excellent in their way. And thus provided, with my rod and rifle, I started to see Maine territory and its resources. I wandered over it for about a fortnight in the month of September, generally contriving to stop in some locality where I could have a few hours fishing in the morning (during the day I travelled straight ahead, and wherever I saw a likely nag, jotted him down for the future benefit of my friend Thomas). A most lovely and home-like country Maine is; it is as verdant and as fresh as any native Devonshire, filled with clear mountain streams and luscious dells, that looked like the best cock-shooting I had yet seen. There were also a good many partridges in some parts, and I bagged a few of them occasionally. Whilst I was there, the farmer at whose house I stopped the night asked me to join in a squirrel-hunt, to which I assented; and the following morning found some twenty Yankees assembled armed with rifles, with the longest barrels and shortest stocks I had ever seen, and was immediately accosted:—"Waal, Mr. Britisher, how are ye? I guess we will show you how to shoot a squirrel without cracking his skull." &c. &c. However, I did not find my friend anything wonderful as shots; but their attitude in shooting was wonderful—the left arm thrown out to the fullest extent, the right leg drawn back into the butt stuck against the muscle of the arm, and the head bent sideways down—the stock being so short, that there was hardly room for the

Thus prepared, Jonathan commenced to draw a bead on the nut of the tree, and I thought it was a shame, as I had arrived at the squirrel at the top, when I was told, as the old proverbs say, "come down." The creature of course the without coming his skin is pelted on the ground, and the tree underneath it the creature of the but passing the tree and out of the tree, and out of the tree, and out of the tree. And here let me say, that I saw a good deal of this shooting in America. I attended one meeting at Lexington where there were some celebrated shots. One gentleman, I was assured, could always break the fore leg and the hind leg of a fox or dog at the same shot, if he crossed him; and I think they said would give you your choice of what it should be, left or right. However, the shooting was there and very where extremely different at any distance beyond eighty yards. Some of the shooting at word of command, I found, was very good. One man I saw knock three dollars running, out of a cleft stick, in this way, but at the fifty yards their performance was wretched; in fact, their rifles would not do the work. But to return to Maine. I did not go to the northern frontier, where the primeval forest exists and the moose and bear flourish, and where, for aught I know, there may be salmon-fishing in the tributaries of the St. John; but I kept farther south, round the base of the White Mountains. The country was full of streams of great beauty and bright rapid sparkling waters; and in nearly all of them I had excellent sport with trout, though not of large size. I scarcely ever slept at an inn, but always at some farmer's house, where I invariably met a hospitable reception. As I do not mind the country here and there, I sometimes came back a second time; and, being expected, all the neighbors dropped into tea; and such a talk as there was, such political ideas, and such violent republicanism. I never met. Most wonderful ideas had they of the power and tyranny of the august lady whom they were extremely pleased to call my Victoria—in fact, they guessed that we Britons were, with our Queen and aristocracy, not a little more wicked than a gang of damned black niggers. As I did not wish to raise the price of horses, I had kept in my; and what I could be, puzzled them most excessively. First they thought I was a pedler, but I had nothing to sell; then that I was making a spec in land; then in horses; but, as I bought no land and no horses, they were beat again. But when I told them that I had come there to look at the country, and fish, their astonishment was boundless—that a man could be such a fool as to waste his time being they could not conceive. With some I had rather made myself a character as a sharp fellow previously, and they would not swallow it. "No, no, old chap, that won't do, you're banishing us—you want such a tool as that neither! And so I left these worthy, hospitable, but most unenlightened folks, to make the country to their own satisfaction, and returned to Washington. From what I saw of the country, I should say that in September excellent sport might be had there, and what there was you would have to yourself, for there were no sportsmen in the country. More charming scenery, and more lovely waters, the world cannot know. I am a little at issue, too, with Mr. Lort, as to the respective fatigue of salmon-fishing and shooting. It probably depends on the place a man's principal strength lies. Now, unless I overused myself to a great extent, the longest days' walking scarcely ever affected me, certainly never beat me; whilst on the other hand, especially in the spring, when you have to use a heavy rod of extra length, I have been beat, utterly and completely; and I therefore think salmon fishing harder work than shooting, and, if you have to wade, incomparably so.

At a future time A. A. shall hear something of New Orleans. J. Whyte.

EFFICIENCY OF THE SOLDIER.

"THE ORGANIZATION OF AN ARMY."

The soldier is a man paid, instructed, armed, and clothed for the purpose of war. Let us try to find out the best requisites for so arranging matters that he may in every way be most efficient.

Any number of men, we will suppose, apply for enlistment in the Army, and according to the proposed system enter themselves as candidates for the first examination. What should this first examination be? It should insure the fact that the two first requisites for every rank should be fulfilled, namely, that the candidate should be mentally and bodily sound.

This examination being concluded and a number of men collected together who are thought eligible for commencing the profession of arms, the next thing to be done is to sort and allot them according to their apparent mental capacity, previous education, and physical formation, height, strength, and size, either for the Scientific Corps, Cavalry, Infantry, or Transport.

If this business were always carefully attended to we should have no fear of occasionally

Light Cavalry trooper of fifteen stone weight, or a slight, wiry, flat-thighed individual of comparatively small size, with unmistakable signs of "stable origin," about him, suggesting under the weights of heavy arms and accoutrements in the Line.

When the privates have been carefully selected, according to their physical and mental conformation and general suitability for any particular Corps, they should be armed, equipped, instructed, and clothed in such a way that the greatest possible use may be made of them for furthering the objects of their particular branch of the Service, and consequently for obtaining the main object of the whole Army.

Let us now think a little about arms, equipments, clothes, &c. Were men allowed to arm themselves according to what they considered would suit them best, the weapons of all would differ in some slight degree, and widely in some cases; men accustomed to activity would use totally different arms to those who found difficulty in moving; and, again, those used to horse exercise, and who were so circumstanced that they possessed horses, would employ a totally different means of attack and defence. From these considerations we see that, according to the organization and inclination of different men, different weapons would be made use of in warfare. Bodies of men accustomed to fight independently use all sorts and descriptions of arms, each selecting his own weapon according to his idea of its excellence and his power of using it. However, arms do not differ in such a great degree but that they may be said to belong to one of the following classes, viz., cannons, firelocks, swords, or pikes. And experience shows us that certain arms belonging to these classes are most efficient for the purposes of war; accordingly our soldiers are furnished with them. Also, that greater effects and more lasting results are produced by men fighting in masses, all armed with the same arm and treated as one individual: therefore men are collected together in large bodies, or Corps, individuals of one Corps (with little exception) being armed alike, in order that the result of experience may be obtained. It will be seen that the best way to get each description of arm skilfully handled is carefully to select from the mass of recruits those who are likely to make the best use of the particular description of weapon used in the Corps requiring reinforcement.

The arms and equipment of the Light Infantry soldier must be constructed so that his first great requisite may be insured, namely, "celerity," celerity of motion, celerity in using his weapon, celerity in charging and aiming with it, of ob- taining ammunition from his pouch so long with, of converting a fire-arm into a manual weapon of attack and defence, and again adapting it to the more convenient form of simply a projecting engine, celerity of cleaning and carrying it, and, in fact, every requisite for this first great necessity.

The ordinary soldier of the Line, being supposed to exercise less agility than the Light Infantry man, is armed accordingly, less of other advantageous qualities of his arms and accoutrements are sacrificed to celerity and locomotion, and we see attention given for converting his fire-lock into a more formidable manual weapon, greater space and weight allowed for a stock of ammunition, and consequently