

ing class were a lot of unscrupulous sharpers. She was freighted with a lot of cut-throats for the purpose of disturbing a legitimate government and carrying slaughter as well as desolation to the firesides of peaceable people in order to swell the gains of some commercial swindlers in New York. That she was engaged in no lawful traffic is beyond doubt, and the Spaniards are acting wisely in refusing to give any satisfaction for acts done in self-defence; she was a pirate and nothing else, the quibbles of sea and International lawyers to the contrary notwithstanding, and the Government of the United States shows its disregard of common humanity by reclaiming her or any portion of her crew.

That power can lay the blame on its commercial subjects or citizens that have left it in such a pitiable defenseless condition, that it has not a vessel capable of floating. The *Kansas*, one of its ironclads sailed for Santiago de Cuba on 20th November, and is heard of at Bermuda on 8th December, she may reach her destination some time in March; what a comment on the preponderance of the commercial element in the Councils of a State.

THE SHIELDED GATLING

The English having adopted our Gatling gun, are studying to see how they can make it most effective in actual service; and to meet the objection that the men handling it may be picked off by sharpshooters, they propose to protect it with a shield. The *London Engineer* recently published an illustrated article showing how the mitrailleuse could be thus protected, and giving the credit for the idea to one Herr Sigl. This has waked up Mr. L. W. Broadwell, who writes to that journal from Vienna as follows:

Sir: Your journal of the 10th inst. contains an illustrated article on "Shielded Mitrailleuse," which erroneously awards to Herr Sigl the credit of having constructed the "folding shield" which he employs upon the Montigny gun exhibited by him. If there be any merit in the peculiar construction of this shield, and in endeavouring to introduce it in connection with the mitrailleuse, it is due to the undersigned, and not to Herr Sigl, as I shall prove in the following statements of facts: In 1870 the Hungarian Government ordered some Montigny guns from Herr Sigl and ten Gatling guns of me, for comparative trials. The Sigl guns had in the beginning no shield worthy of the name; the front sides and lids of the two axle ammunition boxes were made of steel plates, the intention being to raise the lids to a perpendicular position during action, and thus protect the men engaged in operating the gun. Between the axle boxes and below the axle there was no plating, and consequently the protection was found to be insufficient. The Gatling guns were provided at the beginning with a folding shield of my designing, and consisting of three Bessemer steel plates, three-eighths of an inch thick, and weighing altogether 210 Vienna pounds. The middle plate was rigidly fixed to the gun carriage and pierced for the gun, the

other two plates being hinged to the middle one—the lower to lift forward and the top one to fall to the rear—both to the horizontal position—thus forming a seat for two or three men upon the gun when travelling. I enclose a tracing taken from my Austrian patent of April, 1871. I also send you the blue book containing the drawing and specification of my invention, by which you will readily perceive that it is identical with that employed by Herr Sigl. To test the efficiency of this shield the committee caused it to be fired at with the Austrian musket and regulation charge at the short distance of 100 paces. The plates were severely indented but not pierced. A Gatling gun with the same shield thus tested may now be seen here any day, as it forms part of the military trophy in the Hungarian department of the International Exhibition. A trial was made to test the comparative durability of the two systems of Shield during campaign work, Herr Sigl having by this time considerably amplified his design. For this purpose the two guns were travelled over the roughest roads and fields to be found in the vicinity of Vienna, for the greater part of ten days consecutively, the result of which was that Herr Sigl received official instructions to apply my shield to the Montigny guns ordered by the Hungarian Government. Herr Sigl declines to compensate me for the use of my invention, and as it is well established fact that in no single case has a foreigner ever succeeded here in recovering damages by legal process from a native or local infringer of his patent. I have not deemed it wise to waste time and money in trying by a suit at law to compel Herr Sigl to that to the doing of which the most limited sense of justice compatible with common honesty ought to be sufficient compulsion."

The *London Navy and Military Gazette* classes the Gatling gun with the torpedo as a weapon too deadly in its effects to be tolerated in these days of Geneva conventions and international arbitration; a condemnation which will not, we imagine, greatly disturb the equanimity of either the inventor of the gun or the Government officials who have adopted it. The modern theory is to make war so deadly to those immediately engaged in it, and so enormously expensive to the nations who provoke it, that they will hesitate before proceeding to extremities long enough to give opportunity for more pacific counsels to prevail. In this point of view even a member of the philanthropic profession of medicine, like Dr. Gatling, cannot be held to have falsified his principles by his practice, because he has invented such an efficient peace-persuader as the mitrailleuse.

The above is extracted from the *United States Army and Navy Journal* of 29th Nov., we cannot give the *Naval and Military Gazette* credit for great perception if it endorses a weapon which is all but useless as a field gun, the comparison between it and the torpedo is good enough, when motive power or force can be applied to the latter and range to the former they will both be good weapons in their way, but neither will be available to influence issues which must be tried by war; nor will they exercise any particular influence on the act itself. Such notices will serve to advertise Dr. GATLING'S invention however.

We direct attention to Mr. TOPLEY'S card, which will be found in our Advertising pages. He has decidedly the finest stock of Albums to be found in the city, as well as a very superior lot of Pocket and Blank Albums and Scrap Photos. No better or more suitable Christmas or New Year's present than one of these Albums.

REWARD OF MERIT.—We learn that Mr. James Wilson, of the Grand Trunk Battalion, has received a badge and \$20 from the Ontario Rifle Association, awarded to him for the highest score at the recent match of the county of Perth Rifle Association. Mr. Wilson is a crack shot, and we understand has been the recipient of many other marks of distinction.—*Stratford Beacon*, Dec. 5th, '73.

News of H. M.'s ship *Rifleman* has been received, from which it appears that she left Gwadar on September 5, arriving at Charbar on the 6th, where she was sent to benefit the health of the officers and crew, of whom twenty-six were on the sick list, chiefly fever cases. On the morning of the 8th she left Charbar for Gwelter, to intercept His Highness Syud Abdoel Azeel, who was reported about to embark in a dhow for the Arab coast, where he intended to raise a rebellion against the present Imam of Muscat. Arriving at Gwelter, September 9th, it was found that the prince had succeeded in leaving the coast about thirty hours previously. The *Rifleman* immediately steamed across to Ras-el-Hed, where, on September 12, she captured the Prince and eleven of his followers, all armed, six miles from the shore. The *Rifleman* then proceeded to Muscat with the Prince, and arrived there on September 14. On the 16th September His Highness was transferred to the *Columbine*, which vessel took him to Kurrachee, and handed him over to the Indian Government authorities. The *Rifleman* left Muscat again on September 19, for Charbar, and arrived at that port on the 26th. During the first week in October, it was understood that she would proceed up the Persian Gulf. We are sorry to learn that the ship, although especially fitted for the Persian Gulf, has been very unhealthily, having had fifty cases of fever out of a crew of seventy-four white people. The *Columbine* is still at Kurrachee.

Broad Arrow of November 1 says: "The steamer *Lilian*, which is being laden with all despatch at the Woolwich arsenal with stores for the Gold Coast by gangs of men working day and night, has had a large figure of '4' painted on her bows and quarter, as she is the fourth of the transports specially chartered for the expedition. She takes out, among other things, the second locomotive engine between decks, amidships with two long wagons or tenders, fitted like the engine, with both flange wheels for railway travelling, and broad flat wheels for passing over roads. A large quantity of flints accompany the muskets, to replenish as have or may become defective, and special ammunition for these ancient weapons is being packed ready for embarkation in the same ship."

There has been a serious riot among farm servants in the north of Scotland; several tenant farmers were roughly handled. The farmers thought the men asked too high wages, and angry words were followed by a general fight.