

## CONTENTS OF No. 42, VOL. VII.

POETRY.—	
Make Home Happy.....	502
EDITORIAL.—	
Colonel Fletcher on Tactics.....	498
National Armies.....	499
Torpedoes.....	499
The Battle of Worth and its Tactical Lessons.....	500
The News of the Week.....	493
CORRESPONDENCE.—	
The Cavalry Camp—Eastern Township, P.Q.....	504
RIFLE COMPETITION.—	
Wellington Rifle Association.....	494
Manitoba Rifle Association.....	495
District of Bedford Rifle Association.....	497
SELECTIONS.—	
International Coinage.....	491
The Modocs—their Execution.....	502
Nimes and its Antiquities.....	502
Manitoba Police Force.....	508
Volunteer News.....	501
REVIEWS.....	
	501



## The Volunteer Review,

AND

## MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Habited, unbought, our swords we draw,  
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, OCT. 28, 1873.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage.

We publish to-day the full scores of the contestants at the Creedmoor (Long Island, U. S.) rifle range during the first annual match of the National Rifle Association, and quite are pleased to see the splendid shooting made on this occasion.

As a matter of course, it was to be expected that such crack shots as our Canadian soldiers would bear away any prizes in the competitions to which they had access, but it is only fair to say that this proficiency was acquired by years of careful practice.

We do not think the United States' frontiers men will do any thing to advance the National credit as marksmen, because they have not practised shooting with a military weapon, and we look on the *snap* shots at deer or bears in the backwoods frequently at fifty, never beyond one hundred yards, as no naming for the weapons of the present day.

We have republished in another page the leading article of the United States *Army and Navy Journal* on this first Rifle Tournament,

and would direct our readers' attention to the remarks respecting the Remington breech-loading rifle, which appears to have been the favorite weapon.

Our Canadian Riflemen seem to have confined themselves to the Rigby rifle, and it does not seem as if there was any Snider Enfield or Martini-Henry rifles used in the contest at all. We are no advocates of the practice of using sporting rifles in those contests; the soldier's weapon is the only one should be allowed, and till the issues are confined to that, skilled marksmen will be confined to a small class.

The tournament was most creditable, and reflects honor on the promoters of the National Rifle Association.

OUR readers will recollect that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW has, on several occasions during the controversy on the remodelling of the British Navy, opposed in the most decided manner the introduction of the so called *Monitor* type into the Navy of Great Britain, and contended that every principle of practical science was outraged by such constructions as the unlucky *Captain* and her conjurers, and that the adoption of armoured vessels, except as floating batteries for inshore service, was a grave mistake. It was also stated that once the power of the gun had exceeded the resistance of the armour, that the latter was wholly useless except as against shell-fire.

At the same time, the true type of the war vessel of the (then) future was described as a *wooden* frigate of great speed, capable of sailing or using *auxiliary steam power*, heavily armed, and able to choose her own position tactically whether in attack or defence. Most of the articles on this subject were written over two years ago, and it appears that England had already inaugurated the era of a return to common sense and *wooden walls* by the launch of the *Shah* unarmoured frigate on the 10th of September.

From *Broad Arrow*, of 13th September, we copy the following description of the best and fastest war vessel afloat:

"The launch of the *Shah* (originally called the *Blonde*) has added to the navy an unarmoured iron screw frigate sheathed with wood. She is designed to carry twenty guns. Her engines are to be supplied by Messrs. Ravenhill and Co., of 1000 horse power (nominal), and will be fitted with Henschel's patent propeller. She is expected to attain great speed under steam, and, from the fineness of her bow, this expectation will no doubt be realized. The principal dimensions are:—Length between perpendiculars, 334 ft. 8 in.; length of the keel for tonnage, 298 ft. 5 in.; breadth extreme, 52 ft.; breadth for tonnage, 51 ft. 6 in.; breadth moulded, 50 ft. 4 in.; depth in hold, 17 ft. 6 in.; burden in tons (O.M.) 4,210 40-94; total weight when completed for sea, 5,700 tons; load draught of water forward, 21 ft.; aft, 25 ft.

"She will carry about 950 tons of coal; this, at half-boiler power, would enable her to keep under steam for nine days, or, at full power, for four days, and it is expected that a speed of about 16 knots will be obtained at the measured mile. Her armament will

be—main deck, sixteen 6½ ton guns on slides, two 64 pounders on common truck, carriages. Upper deck, two 12½ ton guns, six 64-pounders. The 12½ ton guns on the upper deck are carried one at each end of the ship; turntables are fitted from side to side. These guns are covered by the poop and fore-castle, which give protection from rifle-firing, falling spars, &c., when in action. The ports are recessed, and allowed a great range of fire. The foremost gun, or bow-chaser, fires from two ports of a side, and commands an arc of from 23 degrees abaft the beam to five degrees across the keel, or a total range of 118 degrees; the after gun firing from one port of a side, has a range of from 15 degrees before the beam to 5 degrees across the keel, giving a total range of 110 degrees.

"The poop is a novel feature in the construction of this ship, and the armament is considered a great improvement on that of the *Inconstant*, a similar ship, the heavier guns being carried on the upper deck, where they can be given the greatest possible range, and being available when main-deck guns could not be used. She will be fitted with Forester's steam steering gear, steam capstans, and all the modern improvements in steam pumps and auxiliary engines for fire service. She is divided, by means of water tight bulkheads and flats, into 11 compartments; the iron plating is covered on the outside with two thicknesses of carefully selected teak planking, the inner thickness secured to the ship with iron fastenings, the outer secured to the inner thickness by metal fastenings. Great care is taken to prevent any galvanic action between the iron of the hull and the copper with which the outside sheathing will be covered. For the same reason the after part of the keel, together with the stern and rudder-posts, are formed of gun metal. These, together with the rudder, have all been cast in the dockyard at Portsmouth, and weigh about 50 tons.

"The ship's side, on the main deck between the guns, will be lined with paper half an inch in thickness; this is to prevent the spread of splinters, which would be caused were the sides lined in the ordinary way with wood. It is said that the work, both in wood and iron, has been admirably carried out, and will bear comparison with any yet done."

The armament of this powerful vessel is simply contemptible, she can carry heavier guns than the *Devastation*, and more of them. It is ridiculous to see at the present stage of improvement in science and mechanics *common truck* gun carriages in use; and the *Shah* will not be long afloat before she carries an armament proportionate to her powers.

Another contemporary reviewing the case of the experimental *Wampassog*, referred to in our last issue, in reference to the failure of herself and consort, says:—

"Our naval constructors have been more fortunate. Two, however, of 2,000 tons have been found too small, but two, the *Raleigh* and *Inconstant*, of 4,000 tons and 1,000 horse power, have been quite successful—the latter fairly surprising even her builders' expectations by going at the rate of over 17 miles an hour under steam. But the *Shah*, just launched about a month ago, is spoken of as the finest and fastest ship afloat in the world. She is of the same tonnage and horse power as the *Inconstant*, but from various improvements, particularly in the arrangement of her armament, she is