

THE WOUNDS PRODUCED BY THE CHASSEPOT BULLET.

Paragraphs have from time to time been making their appearance in the public journals as to the effects of the Chassepot bullet, and the enormously disproportionate size of the exit as compared with that of the entrance wound. Our readers will no doubt remember that these statements were based upon experiments made with this weapon at the camp at Lyons on the bodies of dead horses. We have been favored by Dr. Gason of Rome, with information as to the effects produced by this bullet at Mentana in November last, which cannot fail to prove highly interesting at the present time; and Doctor Gason's observations are the more valuable on account of their being based on the personal experience of a skilled professional observer.

It would appear from the reports from the camp at Lyons that the bodies of dead animals were used for the experiments, and it was even alleged by some that those of dead men had been similarly employed; if so, it is a practice which we are told is not altogether unknown in French history. Be this as it may, the wounds on the dead bodies of men or animals are not, for several physiological reasons, identical with those inflicted on living subjects; and the difference in their appearance was remarked by Doctor Gason after the battle of Mentana.

The projectiles used by both combatants in that engagement were principally the round ball, two sizes of the Minie, and the Chassepot ball. The lightness of the Chassepot firelock and its loading at the breech caused a far greater proportion of wounds in the upper part of the body than was the case in those wounded by balls from the muzzle loaders. The entrance made by the Chassepot ball was very small; the exit not much larger. We have the authority of Doctor Gason for positively asserting that among the cases brought into the hospitals in Rome there was not one where the wound produced by the Chassepot bullet bore any proportion to that mentioned in the report from the camp at Lyons—that "the exit was as large as a person's two fists." There was much less effusion of blood beneath the skin than in wounds by the round ball or Minie. The long bones were more frequently split. The immediate effects of the Chassepot were more fatal; but ulterior effects less severe and fatal in wounds produced by the Chassepot than in those of the round ball or Minie. To no other cause, says Doctor Gason, can he attribute the greater fatality and more numerous amputations that occurred in the Military Hospital at Rome among the Papal troops than among the Garibaldians. The former were naturally supplied with the better accommodation, and had as good medical attendance as it was possible; whereas the Garibaldians were lodged in a much inferior building, and were overcrowded, and the attendance was supplied by surgeons not accustomed to gunshot wounds. This was occasioned by the exceptional state of affairs, and the authorities not being prepared for so severe an engagement. The expense was borne by the Civil Hospital of Santo Spirito, with the exception of a comparatively small hospital, where the expenses were met by private subscriptions. Both parties might have been lodged in a more healthy situation than in Rome—close to the field of battle. The external hemorrhage was greater in wounds produced by the Chassepot ball than

by any other form of projectile; and in those places where the Italians fell when struck by it there were large pools of blood. The Chassepot bullet is one inch long, blunt-pointed; its base, the broadest part in circumference, is half an inch in its diameter. Its weight is six drachms and a half.—*Lancet*.

GENERAL PEEL ON THE PAY OF THE ARMY.

General Peel, in the course of a speech at the Huntingdonshire Agricultural Society, on Wednesday, said—There is one subject connected with the army in which we are all interested, and that is its cost. (Hear.) That is a matter on which a great deal might be said, but I am warned by the example of my sagacious friend, Mr. Henley, whose speeches I always read in the news papers. He told us the other day that the whole political surface is covered with gun powder, and so afraid was he of causing an explosion that he only ventured to tread lightly on the cattle plague; but, on reading some further speeches, I have no doubt there are some private broils in Oxfordshire which rendered him very cautious. (Laughter.) But what are they compared with the great question of the expenditure on the army? But do not be alarmed, for at present I have not an ounce of gunpowder, and if I had I would take care that it did not explode in the presence of the ladies. (Laughter.) But there is one point connected with the army which is not political, and I put it before you as a special jury; and I ask you whether you consider something under 9s a week too high wages to offer to an able-bodied man in the prime of life, whom you want to engage to serve you for not less than 12 years, who is subject to discipline unknown to any other class in life, who is liable to go at any moment to a foreign country and climate, and also to be shot at into the bargain. (Cheers.) If any gentleman present thinks that too large a sum, I beg him to get up and let me see him as a matter of curiosity. (Laughter.) If you require a man to serve you, the next thing to do is to pay him for his services. I beg all of you, whose good opinion I am most anxious to retain, not to consider that I am the advocate of extravagance in our expenditure. So far from it, I believe that any man who asks for a shilling more than is necessary to secure the efficiency of the army and the safety of the country is unwise, and he who asks for a shilling less is still more unwise. (Loud cheers.) There is one matter for which no money can pay, and that is the honor of England; and I am sure no one will refuse what is necessary to maintain the welfare and honor of this country. (Loud cheers.)

We take the following selections from a speech made by Mr. Reverdy Johnson at a banquet given at Berkenhead recently.

When I remember the war through which our Government passed, unharmed so far as its unity was concerned, I was satisfied that you would see that the Union still stands on foundations never to be shaken, however some of you may have differed as to the causes and probable results of the war. I thought I knew, and now realize here and find friends as sincere as anywhere in the realm. Our fathers made a nation; we have shown our will and ability to maintain it as long as Providence will suffer human society to endure.

Mr. Johnson then complimented the American Chamber of Commerce on its history and usefulness, and dilated on the expansion of Liverpool. The commerce of America aids, and is glad to aid, the prosperity of the English labouring men. They are partly fed by the United States, and of their industry America shares the fruits. Because of this close connection nothing but absolute insanity on the part of either nation can involve us in a conflict. This I say for the future, not for the present, for nothing is further from my thoughts than that I should be insane enough, or that the Government that is—(turning to Lord Stanley)—or that which may be—(turning to Mr. Gladstone)—should become so. Which ever party may prevail, peace will be in no peril. As long as Lord Stanley represents the foreign relations of England, and I or anyone of my sentiments represents those of America here, peace is beyond the possibility of doubt. We have discarded the mysteries of diplomacy, frankly said what we wanted, asked nothing not right to ask; and I may say, so far as we have gone, that all has gone merrily, and we have every reason to think that all will go merrily to the end. What has been done, or is to be done, I leave you to guess. In the language of Lord Coke. "Let this little taste suffice." I have spoken at Sheffield and elsewhere of special industry. Here commerce is the theme. How comprehensive is the term! It holds in its grasp the world, finds man wherever he is, ministers to his wants, enables him to minister to the wants of his fellows, brings all the productions of the world into the market, explores the ocean, brings to light the treasures of the earth, and disseminates them through the universe for the happiness of the race. It does more. You may be—you should be—the pioneers of morality and religion. You take the missionary Bible wherever man is found, secure wide and wider spread Christian civilization. You have done more; you have bridged the Atlantic. Once an ocean dangerous to pass, separated us; now there is a bridge of boats upon it over which you go in a few days with perfect safety from shore to shore. This is a result of joint enterprise.—But even this is not all. By a joint enterprise you have aided us to grasp the hand of friendship beneath the sea, and heart beats in unison to heart, though above the waves be mountains high, threatening destruction to all within their reach. And we are indebted for this marvel of the age to your wealth, enterprise and skill. Your energies and scientific men—Charles Bright, Whitehouse, Faraday and Morse, aided by the never-failing energy and never despairing confidence of our countryman, Cyrus W. Field—accomplished this. How are we to dispute—how could we have the heart to stop the careers to prevent the result of joint efforts—the joint skill which promises so much advantage, and to shower so many blessings on the whole habitable globe. And we expect to remain under the Government we now enjoy. You expect to remain under that which you enjoy. They differ but in form. The foundations of each are in those principles which are essential to the preservation of human liberty. The rights guaranteed by *Magna Charta*, the personal security afforded by the great writ of *Habeas Corpus*, and protected by the right of trial by jury, satisfy us that through all time, if we are true to ourselves, our respective Governments will last. They may for a time be interrupted in their actual operation, there may be some error in some portion of the structure of each, but that