

cavalry, the fire-arm having no bayonet.

Even at this time there were to be found stout old soldiers who poo poohed the use of fire-arms, and prophesied their being soon given up; some objected to it on the ground of its being a cowardly weapon! What would they say of the present fire-arm which kills men out of sight?

One remarkable consequence of the introduction of the fire-arm the gradual reduction of armour, until it disappeared altogether.

Of course, as the number of infantry armed with the fire-arm increased, so did the depth of the formation decrease.

We have now arrived at the 17th century, in the early part of which, Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden, appears in the military horizon as a reformer. The greatest improvements he seems to have made were those equipment, and to a certain extent, of organization. He increased the effective power of infantry in a great degree by inventing cartridges and pouches. Up to that time the musketeer had either carried his powder in bandoliers (small wooden cases, each holding a charge) or in a flask, having another and a smaller flask containing priming powder, and his bullets in a pouch. The invention of cartridges enabled the soldier to fire at least three shots for every one he could before. Doubtless some of the wisecracks of that period shook their heads at this innovation, and prophesied (as was done not long ago, when the breech-loader was introduced) that it would cause wild firing and waste of ammunition! Gustavus Adolphus also invented a light gun—a 4-pounder—made of cylinders of copper or some other metal, strengthened by bands. These guns were, I believe, drawn by men. He used them first at the battle of Lutzen, where he beat the Austrians, who used a heavy formation, like the Phalanx. Gustavus himself using the old Roman method of the second line filling up the intervals left in the first line.

Gustavus also seems to have been the first General, who ever thought of attacking in winter, or securing his communications. As far as actual tactics go, he did not make any great alteration, but seems to have used the ideas of Maurice of Nassau in a great measure. He made one improvement in the organization of his army which added greatly to its mobility. He divided it into brigades—two regiments each, in all 2,016 men. These were ranged six ranks deep. They fought in lines, with an interval between each, equal to their front.

The musketeers were now nearly three-fourths of the infantry, and every one of them used a rest; an improvement was made in this rest by enclosing a thin rapier blade, called a Swedish feather in the shaft, which flew out, on touching a spring. This was used as a defence against cavalry.

In the early part of this (17th) century a species of soldier was introduced, who did good service at first—I mean the Dragons. Dragoons were first used by Mansfeld at the commencement of the Thirty Years' War, when they did really good service, as long as they preserved their original character—viz, mounted infantry. They were intended to gallop forward, dismount, and leaving their horses in charge of a few of their number, act as infantry. But this genius of soldier did not succeed in the long run. It was found that their colonels preferred to drill them and treat them as cavalry; and when they did dismount to skirmish they showed a marvellous inclination to fall back and get to their horses again. In fact they

were expensive and bad infantry, and cheap and bad cavalry. They gradually fell into disuse, and became what they wanted to be, cavalry. They are said to have derived their name from the fire arm they used, called a dragon—a short weapon of large bore with a dragon's head at the muzzle.

In 1635 the flint-lock was invented, and used in England in 1677. This of course was as great an improvement on the snap-haunce as it had been on the match-lock.

Another great improvement was the introduction of the bayonet. The Swedish feather and rest had been discarded about 1660 in England, and the infantry soldier was provided with a dagger, which he stuck into the muzzle of his gun. Of course, though this converted the gun into a sort of pike, the objection was that it had to be screwed into the barrel and the man could not fire again until it was removed; moreover it took sometime to get it in and out. This led to rings being fastened on the socket of the bayonet, which was then put over the muzzle. In one of the Flinders campaigns, our 25th regiment, whose bayonets screwed in, were, greatly to their astonishment and discomfort, fired into by a French regiment advancing to the charge with fixed bayonets, they having them fixed on with rings.

The socket-bayonet was afterwards adopted, and was in general use in 1703.

I happen to have a copy of the daily orders issued by the Duke of Cumberland just before the battle of Culloden, and one of them give a curious account of the tactics of the Highlanders, and, in the directions for opposing them no mention is made of the bayonet. The order is quaint and in bad English, and runs thus:—

“Edinburgh, 12 Jan., 1746. Sunday.—The manner of the Highlander way of fighting, which there is nothing so easy to resist if officers and men are not prepossessed by the lies and accounts which are told of them. They commonly form their front rank of what they call their best men, or true Highlanders, the number of which being always but few when they join in battalions; they commonly form four deep, and these Highlanders form the front of the four, the rest being Lowlanders and errant scum; when these battalions come within a large musket shot, or three-score yards, the front rank gives their fire, and immediately throw down their firelocks, and come down in a cluster with their swords and targets, making a noise and endeavouring to pierce the body or battalion before them, becoming twelve or fourteen deep by the time they come up to the people they attack. The sure way to demolish them is at three deep, to fire by ranks diagonally to the centre when they come, the rear rank first, and even that rank not to fire till they are within ten or twelve paces; but if the fire is given at a distance you will probably be broke, for you never get time to load another cartridge and if you give way you may give your foot for dead, for they being without a firelock or any load, no man with his arms and accoutrements, &c., can escape them, and they give no quarters; but if you will but observe the above directions, they are the most despicable enemy that are.”

(To be continued.)

London, May 19.—The Czar went to Alder shot this morning. The usual crowd gathered in the streets to see him. He returns to London this afternoon. A state ball will be given in his honour at Buckingham Palace to-night.

DESPERATE VALOR OF THE ASHANTEES.—A correspondent writes from the field: “The Ashantees fought like demons. They were present in enormous numbers, pouring in on our gallant troops by thousands, yelling and screaming hideously. Although our fire told on them immensely, they had to be driven from point to point, and even when pushed out of the successive villages, returned to the attack. In the thickest parts of the brush they climbed the trees in order to fire more effectually upon our troops. The order of advance from Insarful was as follows: The attack was made in the form of a square, through the middle of which ran the main road, and the line extended about 300 yards on either side. The 42nd regiment, preceded by Lord Gifford and his scouts, formed the front line, with two of Kell's guns in the centre. Gordon's Houssas in a dense corner of jungle. It really seemed as if nothing but the failure of their ammunition would drive them out. Now at one point, now another, along the hill crest they poured down crushing volleys. Life they counted at no price if only a white man could be killed. It was the same desperate obstinacy we had seen at Abakrampt. They climbed trees to fire with more deadly effect, but the mass just lay down and shot till shot themselves or short of ammunition. Sir Archibald Alison, Brigadier of the white troops, declared he never came under a fiercer fire in India or the Crimea.”

THE IRISH.—In his memoirs of the great Indian mutiny, Sir Hope Grant tells the following capital story of an Irish regiment, the 53rd. ‘This regiment,’ says Sir Hope Grant, ‘principally composed of Irishmen, were a fine looking set of fellows, and equally good hands at fighting. Their discipline, however, was not by any means perfect, and it was difficult to keep them well in hand. They had been lying under a bank of a road which afforded inadequate protection, and had in consequence lost a good many men. All of a sudden, without a word from any of their officers, they rushed forward, and utterly heedless of all efforts to stop them, made their way into the toll house, in a few minutes covering out the enemy. The Commander in Chief was terribly annoyed, and riding up to the regiment pitched into it with a will. But these wild Irishmen were incorrigible; whenever he began to speak, a lot of them exclaimed as loud as they could: ‘Three cheers for the Commander in Chief, boys!’ and at last he himself was obliged to go away laughing.’

THE ARKANSAS QUESTION.—A little Rock special says 326 of Brooks' left yesterday, (May 19) and a company of Baxter's men left. Brooks continues defiant under receipt of despatches from Dorsey and Clayton, at Washington, to the effect that Brooks will be sustained by Congress.

Rensselaer, N.Y., May 19.—The Farmers and Mechanics' Bank of this city closed its doors this morning. The failure of a heavy dry goods house a few days since is supposed to be the immediate cause of the failure.

San Francisco, May 19.—A despatch from San Francisco says that Jehu Overend, wife and four children were found murdered in their house. There is no clue as to the murderers.