

while for riflemen to train for it. In competing for this prize a similar graduated scale of rewards, for forty or fifty of the best shots, who had entered for it might be apportioned, as is done at Wimbledon. As there, a large proportion of those prizes should consist of the best and newest pattern rifles, so as to ensure the gradual introduction of the best arms into the country, and familiarise our people with their use. Let earnest action of this kind be once taken by the authorities, and other prizes would not be wanting, which would produce marksmen that we should not be ashamed to send to Wimbledon, to stand up for the honor of the Dominion, even against the famed shots of the mother country. A more valuable result would follow in training up our youth to the use of the rifle. If we are to retain our independence, we must not only be an armed nation, but one also well skilled in the use of those arms, and which can only be done thoroughly in the way I have suggested.—*SIC VIS PACEM, PAKA BELLUM*—or as our own Shakespeare more beautifully put it "Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace."

#### A GOOD EXAMPLE.

We copy the following from the proceedings at the annual meeting of the Robin Hood Rifles, Nottingham, as published in the 'Volunteer Service Gazette' of England. The conduct of Captain White deserves the highest praise—that of the party trying to purchase him merits equal contempt. The letter to Capt. White is an insult to the whole Volunteer force:

Ensign Belk said it had come to his knowledge—at least he had heard—that overtures had been made to their respected Adjutant, Capt. White, to induce him to leave them. He did not wish to enter into the matter in any other manner than that of the utmost fairness and good feeling, but he thought that Captain White should lay on the table any papers in his possession regarding overtures which might have been made to him on that subject. (Hear, hear.)

Captain White said it was true he had often had offers to retire from army agents, which he had uniformly thrown in the fire, but in the present case he had been induced, perhaps without due consideration, to answer one. It was the strongest letter he had ever received. He did not know what they took him for, but if they wished he would read the letters. Capt White then read as follows:—

"London, April 5, 1867.

"Sir,—You will have no doubt had many letters from other agents besides myself, asking you if you will retire, &c., &c. I now, however, write in a different capacity—viz.: as a friend of a captain lately retired from the Line, with every necessary qualification, who has interest in Nottingham, and who can get your appointment if you give it up. You will thus have no risk. You have completed seven years in it, so can retire on 4s. per day. If you will do so I can give you £1,400, which is quite equal (with no deductions) to five years' income. You will have the principal and interest, and, a great point, can ensure it now if you embrace the opportunity, whereas, if you let it pass, you may not have the chance of making anything when you want to go. Will you therefore be good enough to give the matter your full consideration, and favor me with your sentiments for my friend, after you have done so. I am sure you will not have a more desirable chance to make a move, if you are at all tired of soldiering; besides, you must not forget to bear in mind that you will still be in a position to take any other appointment if you give the present one up

" Hoping to have a favorable reply,

" I am, Sir, faithfully,

" Captain White,

" Adj. Robin Hood, R.V., Nottingham."

"Nottingham, April 6th, 1867

"Sir,—I am in receipt of yours of the 5th instant, and although your offer would be considered (by some) very tempting, I feel myself bound to decline it for the following reasons:

"When the Volunteer movement first started in this town, I, although only an out-pensioner of Chelsea, was selected to impart instruction to the members who then joined, and they very kindly placed me in my present (what appears) much coveted position, since which time they have readily given me every assistance, and have not only ably seconded my efforts, but they (and I may also add the gentlemen of this town) have invariably treated me with such courtesy and kindness, that I feel bound as long as I am able (and can perform my duties to my commanding-officer's satisfaction) to hold my present position.

"I may also add that I came in the corps without paying money, and it is not my intention to receive any when leaving, it will therefore be useless making me any further offers.

"It occurs to me that it is just possible your friend might be disappointed, as I am not aware of any under-current existing through which he could obtain the situation.

"However, I must again most respectfully decline your offer

"I am, Sir, yours faithfully,

"J. WHITE,

"Captain and Adjutant, R. H. R.

"P. S.—While I believe our Regimental Sergeant-Major is in the same fix as myself—I, not worth a £5 note, when other folks get their rights, still, he has shown such thorough earnestness and ability for several years, that in the event of my being overtaken by infirmity, causing retirement, and Colonel Wright deigning to ask my opinion, it would be, that he ought not be pushed aside, seeing that his past services and honorable decorations will bear daylight inspection.

J. W."

Captain White, remarking on the letter, said he called it a monstrous document. Think of offering him £1,400 to retire. He was but a poor man, and had he been base enough to be bought at all, he might perhaps have been bought for half the sum. Some people seemed to think they could shunt him about as they pleased, but if he had not much money he had some merit. They had been hitherto on the most agreeable terms, and he was not to be bought away from the Robin Hood Rifles. (Much applause.)

#### FOREIGN MILITARY NEWS.

The 'Times' of the 30th ult. says: The 4th Rifle Brigade at present serving in Canada, is shortly expected to leave that colony for England, and on arrival will be quartered in Portsmouth garrison.

The 'Army and Navy Gazette' says: We are glad to hear the very best accounts of the working of the Snider rifle with the No. 3 cartridge. It appears to leave nothing to be desired, and both officers and men are now engaged in practice, and are quite enthusiastic about its merits.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London 'Times' announces the death, not long since, in his 90th year, of William Sandilands (borne on the books of Her Majesty's ship 'Victory' as William Saunders) the last survivor of those who carried the dying Nelson to the cockpit of that ship at the battle of Trafalgar.

COL. KENNEDY, commanding the Royal Artillery in Malta, made a minute inspection of the 3rd Brigade on the 24th ult., preparatory to its proceeding to Canada in June next. The brigade will proceed to its destination in two divisions of five companies each. The last division will remain in Malta until the arrival of the 10th Brigade from Canada.—[United Service Gazette.

Is a letter to the Secretary of the Colonel Richards Volunteer Testimonial Fund, Alfred Tennyson says: "I most heartily congratulate you, Col. Richards, on your having been able to do so much for your country, and hope you will not cease from your labors until it is the law of the land that every man-child in it should be trained to the use of arms."

BREECH-LOADERS.—The 'Army and Navy Gazette' says: France is still eagerly searching for the best transformation "breech-loader," and those of Snider, Cornish, Chassepot, and a host of others, including one very neat one introduced by Mr. John Arthur, are being tested. Russia is also looking through agents here for the last good thing out. I have heard of some wonderful India-rubber cartridges, too, which, if they are as good as I am told, will do away with the objection to several kinds of breech-loaders. There are fifty different specimens of these life-takers in one "installation" in the Exhibition, so the Government will have rather an "embarras des richesses" to select from.

THE RIFLE MOVEMENT IN IRELAND.—The rifle practice movement is making progress in Ireland. A prize meeting has been held of the Ulster Rifle Association at Holywood, near Belfast, when eight of the best shots who appeared for Ulster at the match on Lord Dufferin's grounds at Clauderoy last year contended for a piece of plate, presented by the late Mr. Peter Echlin. The prize was borne away from its holder by a young member of the society, Mr. Thompson, described as a crack shot, who, however, must win it a second time before receiving it as his own property. Rifle matches on a much larger scale, at which all the Irish clubs will compete, will be held during the summer in Dublin, and Lord Strathnairn has given the use of the military targets for the occasion. A cup, presented by the Lord Lieutenant, along with other prizes, will then be competed for.

ANOTHER NEW CANNON IN FRANCE.—A good deal of curiosity has, says a Paris correspondent, been excited of late in military circles by the report that a new cannon, so light that it can be carried by two men, on being tested had given the most wonderful results. Those who witnessed the experiments made with this piece were only able to attest the fearful ravages caused by each discharge, as the gun itself was kept carefully concealed. It is stated that this cannon can be fired 40 or 50 times a minute, that it carries correctly for 2000 yards, and that a single discharge is sufficient to destroy the whole front of a battalion. The inventor is a captain of artillery, attached to the manufactory of firearms at St. Cloud.

REGIMENTAL BANDS IN FRANCE.—Marshal Niel, Minister of War, has addressed a report to the Emperor, having for its object to suppress the music of all the regiments of cavalry and artillery in the French Army. The principal reasons assigned for the measure are three: First, that in the corps to which the budget grants only a limited number of horses the bands absorb not only men who neither do garrison duty in time of peace nor active service in war, but also use horses which might be employed in mounting combatants on foot. Secondly, that the cavalry soldiers, who have quite business enough of their own to attend to, are often obliged to clean the horses of the musicians, and sometimes those also of the pupils, who are dispensed from that duty by reason of their studies and rehearsals; and thirdly, that the dimensions and weight of the instruments now used are prejudicial to the active movement of mounted troops. The Marshal proposes that each cavalry corps shall retain only sufficient trumpets to give the necessary calls and signals required for the service. The Emperor has approved of the suggestions of the report.