

ARCHERY FEATS.

The statement made in a recent issue of "Tit-Bits" to the effect that the greatest distance an arrow has been shot from a yew-bow is 236 ft. 7in. is quite correct. The reference was to the old-fashioned long-bow, made throughout of yew, such as our bowmen used at Crecy and elsewhere in France. These bows could not send an arrow anything like a quarter of a mile, and it was with such a bow that the record shot of 236ft. 7in. was made.

Longer distances have, of course, been shot; but in these cases both bows and arrows were very different, being specially made for long-distance shooting. They were light Turkish bows, shooting light arrows. Two of the longest recorded shots were made some years ago with a very light arrow of about 25in. in length, by the Secretary of the Turkish Embassy in London. He shot against the wind a distance of 415 yards. and back again with the wind 463 yds.

Some interesting facts regarding old-time feats of archery are to be found in "The Gun and Its Development," by Mr. W. W. Greener.

On one occasion, says Mr. Greener, a party of archers shot before King Edward VI. at considerably over 220 yds. and pierced an oak plank 1in. in thickness, several of the arrows passing right through the plank and sticking into the butts at the back.

An authority states that some archers belonging to the Ventna, a warlike Welsh tribe, shot clean through an oak door, behind which some soldiers had concealed themselves, the door being no less than four fingers in thickness.

Henry VIII., at the Field of the Cloth of Gold, shot against the French cross-bow men. The King put the arrows from his long-bow successively in the centre at nearly 240 yds., whilst

the Frenchmen were unable even to hit the target.

WON THE BET

A young lieutenant who indulged in a good deal of betting was transferred from one Army post to another. When he reported to his superior officer he was treated very coolly.

"Young man," said the officer, "I have a letter from your former colonel and he tells me, you, although efficient, have a weakness for betting. I won't stand it in this regiment, sir; do you understand? You couldn't lure me to bet. What do you bet about, any way?"

"I'll bet you five pounds," said the lieutenant, "that you have a scar on your left shoulder."

"What, sir?" replied the colonel. "I'll take on that bet."

Off came the coat, then the shirt, but no scar was seen. The commander then admonished the lieutenant, and afterwards wrote the following letter to the young man's former colonel: "Just as you said. This youngster was not in my office two minutes before he bet me five pounds I had a scar on my left shoulder. Of course he lost, but I hope he will be benefitted by the experience."

Then came the answer: "The youngster was right. Before he left here he bet me twenty pounds he would have your shirt off five minutes after he met you."

A teacher in a big school had given lessons to an infants' class on the Ten Commandments. In order to test their memories, she asked:—

"Can any little child give me a commandment with only four words in it?"

A hand was raised immediately.

"Well?" said the teacher.

"Keep off the grass," was the reply.