

of Casale, but nothing of importance occurred. On the 17th inst. General Baron Zobel gave medals to half-dozen soldiers who particularly distinguished themselves near Casale when the Austrians advanced to Trino. The Hungarian Hussars worthily maintain their high reputation for bravery, as will be seen by the following extract from one of the orders of the day:—

"On the 15th of May three Hussars of the regiment 'Count Haller,' who had been on patrol duty, attempted to pass through the town of Voghera, which during their absence had been evacuated by the Imperial troops. On entering the streets they were surrounded and attacked by a great crowd of people, and by 10 Piedmontese Lancers. With marvellous presence of mind and courage two of the Hussars, Farago and Dosa, cut their way through their assailants and reached their company in safety. The third Hussar was killed."

The gallant sons of the Pusztia (Steppe) received silver medals from Count Gyulaf to their bravery. Letters written by officers to their wives and families have been shown to me, and in almost all of them mention is made of the "tremendous lies" told by the Sardinian papers. Not a single farthing has been demanded of the inhabitants of the districts in which the Austrian troops have been quartered, and no provisions and forage have been taken from private individuals without being paid for in hard cash. Printed bonds are given by the different commanders for the provisions which the several communities are "required" to supply. The inhabitants of the provinces of Lomellina and Novara displayed no hostility to the Austrians, but the people in the provinces of Vercelli and Voghera gave an unfriendly reception to their uninvited visitors. In the neighbourhood of Voghera General Baron Urban took with him 20 persons of note as hostages, but promised to set them at liberty when the Imperial troops quitted the province. Many of the officers observed in their letters that the "Jager" are "de-lighted" (entzückt) with the performance of their new rifles.

The relative merits of French and Austrian troops are becoming more discernible than at first, and the survey more instructive. The Austrian Staff service is reputed to be excellent, and it certainly seems that they have kept the initiative for the most part in their own hands. They have advanced and retired as they pleased without much hindrance or surprise. The battle of Montebello was of their own making, though the spot looked so like a French selection. Our Vienna correspondent not only anticipated the engagement, but its very scene, before the news had reached the Austrian capital. It cannot be doubted that the French had the best of this affair, though they fought at some disadvantage. It was not 2,500 men against 15,000, but at first, and until support came up, the French were really outnumbered, and perhaps continued to be so, more or less, all through the battle. Nevertheless, by dint of genuine gallantry and dash, they forced the Austrians back point to point, and remained masters of the field. But, though the French fought the best, the Austrians fought very well indeed, and it must be remembered that it was their design to retire. They brought on the battle at their discretion, and terminated it when they thought proper.

There is one feature in the campaign particularly interesting to us at the present moment. It seems that the Austrians have the advantage in Riflemen, and that the best of these Riflemen are the Tyrolese Sharpshooters,—in other words, the men who are trained at home to the use of the Rifle as a national pastime, exactly as we propose to do with our Volunteers.—Times.

ENGINES OF WAR.—When all the signs of the times portend war, and that on a desperate scale, the anxiety here and on the other side of the channel to perfect the engines of war is natural enough. No subject engages more attention at the present time, and never before was it prosecuted so earnestly.—The efforts which the Emperor of the French has long made to improve his artillery especially oblige us to look to our own. He is said to have perfected a wonderful gun. We read, "It is rifled; the projectiles are hollow, and produce a double effect—that of solid shot and of shell. Their form is conical, and leaden allettes give to the ball a precision never obtained before. In order to give an idea of the terrible effects of these new pieces, it suffices to say that a 12-pounder (new model) will, with one-half the number of shots of the old pieces of 24, produce the same effect; and the new pattern 12-pounder produces at 70 metres the same result as the old 24 at 35, and requires no more than one-sixth of the charge. The projectiles penetrate into a block of stone of the hardest cement, to an extent of 80 centimetres, and an enormous breach is made by the explosion. The advantages of the 4-pounder are still more remarkable. It requires but 500 grammes of powder to throw a ball a distance of one kilometre. The precision is such that at the distance of 3,100 metres it strikes a single man on horseback, and at that distance would destroy a body of cavalry or infantry." All the pieces constructed on the new system are loaded at the muzzle. Two hundred guns of this kind are already furnished to the Imperial Guard, and numerous others of various calibre are being cast. One with which they are now practising at Vincennes is said to weigh 2,500 lb., and to require six men to work it. This gun can, at 2,000 yards, put twenty musket balls in a target six feet square. An Englishman, Mr. Shaw, claims to have invented an "Enfield rifle battery," consisting of twenty-four barrels, and weighing only 300 lbs., which can also put twenty balls in a target six feet square, at about the same distance: if this be so, we are prepared for the Vincennes gun in the field. But the great secret of our government at present is in the Armstrong gun, which has obtained for its inventor a baronetage and the appointment of "Engineer to the War Department for Rifled Ordnance." In order to secure the secret of this gun's construction, the Government suppressed Sir W. Armstrong's application for a patent, and will now have to bring in a Bill to justify that proceeding.—Great care is taken to prevent any unauthorised person from seeing the gun. During practising strangers are kept at a distance, and when not in use it is safely housed. It would appear, however, that all these precautions proved useless; for the editor of the *Mechanic Magazine*, like a patriot as he is, has given to the world a detailed description of the construction of the gun. We were told before that "it is formed of an internal steel tube, bound over with strips of rolled iron laid on spirally, somewhat after the fashion of small-arm barrels, the alternate strips being laid in opposite directions." This system of construction is expensive, but it gives great strength with small quantity of metal. The internal steel tube is rifled with a very large number of small grooves close to each other. The shot or shell Mr. Armstrong usually makes of cast iron, of about three diameters in length, and covers it entirely over with this lead, so that it may conform itself to the rifled interior of the bore. The gun is loaded from the breech in a new and ingenious manner, and herein it would seem is the chief excellence of the gun.—With his shells Mr. Armstrong uses a percussion fuse of his invention, for causing the shell to burst on striking an object, in case the striding takes place before the time fuse has operated. The Armstrong gun is much lighter, compared with the shot she throws, than the best guns now in use; and as for effect, we are told that on this system shot or shell weighing eighty or ninety pounds, or cast a distance of from five to seven miles. Another war-engine which will probably be adopted in our naval service, is Captain Norton's liquid fire shell. It has already gone very successfully through experiments intended to prove that one or two of these missiles fired into the hull of a vessel would set it in flames. The shell was tried against some pieces of sacking, which represented the sails of ship; and, though they were soaked with rain, they took fire immediately. The same result followed when a shell,

charged with about a tea-spoonful of the "liquid fire," came in contact with a timber boarding. Then we have Mr. Warry's breech-loading gun, which, on a recent trial, fired ten rounds in a minute, a distance of two thousand yards, and with good aim.—What next? A thousand war has been made almost impossible with these inventions, or, at any rate, a pitched battle in open field. Let us hope that somebody will devise a means of blowing armies away column by column, and then perhaps we shall hear no more of warfare, save as a thing gone by.—*Illustrated Times*.

Water pipes have been made of almost every conceivable material—wood, metals, gutta percha, india rubber, stone ware, &c., but paper pipes are novelties. The new pipes, a Parisian invention, are made of paper dressed with bitumen: they are capable of resisting a pressure of fifteen atmospheres, and made to bear much more by increasing the thickness of their walls. They are of course very light, very homogenous, inoxidable, perfectly wholesome, and remarkably cheap. The bitumen is mixed with a certain quantity of chalk, not given, and is heated in a boiler to melting; a roll of paper is then made to pass through the liquid bitumen, and immediately afterwards rolled upon an iron mandrill of the size desired for the interior of the pipe to the thickness required. When this is done, the mandrill is placed in another cauldron, which contains pure bitumen, and afterwards rolled upon a flat stone sprinkled with fire; the mandrill is then drawn out, and the inner surface of the pipe dressed with pure bitumen. These pipes are four times cheaper and lighter than cast iron.—*Scientific American*.

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