

ting and capture: what turged out to be a well-erected battery, containing 21 guns of various calibres. The guns that were not mounted were fixed with stakes driven into the ground.

The difficult nature of the operations, says Sir Alfred Jephson, can only be realised by those who took part in them. The cutting down of the bush was in itself a great work, but, besides this, there were numerous creeks to be crossed, and trees had to be felled and placed across them to provide the troops a passage. The ground, too, was one unbroken quagmire, and the difficulty of getting the guns over the morasses was stupendous. In sheer desperation, one of the bluejackets offered to carry a 7-pounder gun on his shoulder, and the self-imposed task he accomplished with a man on each side to prop him up. Planks had, however, to be laid down to prevent the brave fellow sinking into the morass.

The cutting a way through the bush had a considerable moral effect upon the natives, who, seeing their position turned by the flank movement, fled, leaving their defences in the hands of the British. The party pushed on to the creek for the purpose of demonstrating to the natives that the town could be carried. The troops, both seamen and soldiers, worked well in face of a heavy but badly-directed fire, the native Protectorate men, now for the first time under fire, behaving capitally, encouraged thereto by the excellent example shown them by the bluejackets, who led the advance and formed the rear guard in retiring. After spiking the guns in the battery the force retired to Benin.

The projectiles fired from the masked battery in Brohemie Creek, which caused the casualties in the *Alecto's* pinnace, were a species of canister shot composed of nails, bits of glass bottles, and other things of that nature encased in a hollow bamboo. The wounds in most cases were jagged and very painful, but the men bore up very well in their suffering. Sir Alfred Jephson said no praise was too great to accord to all who took part in the operations, and particularly to the bluejackets. The marches which the men had to make through the swampy country not only caused their feet to swell, but at times the prickly growths penetrated their boots and caused much pain. The spirits of the men throughout were excellent, and there were scarcely any cases of sickness.

By telegraph we learn that Admiral Bedford arrived at Benin on Sept. 18 in the *Philomel*, and two days later summoned Nana to surrender. As the chief refused, a new passage was successfully cut through the swamp, in spite of a brisk fire from the guns of the town. In this manner the position was turned, and on Sept. 25 the place was stormed and taken without loss to the British force, which was composed of bluejackets and Protectorate troops. Nana fled, and has not yet been captured. Large quantities of ammunition and stores were seized in his town, including 75 cannon,

smooth-bores, and 1,500 barrels of gunpowder, besides other ammunition and general materials.—*The Army and Navy Gazette*.

The Lyman Sights.

In drawing the attention of our readers to the advertisement of these sights, which appears in our advertising pages, we think the following will be of interest to them:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SHOOTING TIMES.

SIR,—With reference to your article upon the Lyman sights, which appeared in the SHOOTING TIMES of the 15th inst., I beg to add the following remarks, the results of my own experience with them, in target and small game shooting, during the past six years. They may perhaps be of service to some of your readers who feel inclined to try the sights. Those who have tested them have formed their own opinions about them, which are usually decidedly favorable.

The sight shewn in figure 1 is the best pattern for sporting purposes, and is adapted to rifles with stocks considerably bent, like those made in America, but it allows of more elevation than is necessary for British sporting rifles, except perhaps, in South Africa, where sportsmen are stated to fire at game up to 500 yards distance. For express and other rifles intended for use at game within 200 yards, there is another sight of exactly the same pattern but shorter in the stem.

There is also an aperture sight very similar to these, and fitted with a wind-gauge. It is good for target work up to about 500 yards, and for sport on open plains. The base is shaped so as to give a very firm grip for the hand, but the stem, being rigid, is more likely to catch in twigs than the first mentioned pattern. It is therefore not so good for shooting in thick bush. I doubt if a wind-gauge be of any practical use in killing game. A hunter will do better by deciding at once about the force of the wind, and allowing for it by the position in which the foresight is held, rather than by losing time in altering a wind-gauge.

The small aperture of these sights should be used for target shooting only.

For sporting purposes the large hole is far preferable, because it gives more light, and allows a distinct view of an animal the size of a deer, and also of the surrounding ground or bushes. The field of vision is indeed so wide, that anyone unaccustomed to the sight would be likely to conclude that it could not ensure an accurate aim. I once thought so, but found that, when firing from a rest at a thin perpendicular line 25 yards distant, I could not make the bullets strike more than half-an-inch to right or left of the line, although holding so that the foresight appeared to be almost touching the *side* of the rear aperture. This was with a barrel only 24 inches in length, and of course with a longer barrel, the deviation would be less.

Strange as the statement may seem to those who have not used these sights, the most certain way to ensure looking through the exact centre of the aperture is to refrain from trying to do so. If the whole attention be concentrated upon the foresight and the object aimed at, the eye naturally finds the centre, because the light is brighter there than in any other part of the circle.

No sportsmen are more likely to appreciate these sights than those whose eyes, owing to advancing age, are losing the power of adapting their focus to various distances. The haze on an open rear sight then becomes very annoying, and can be only partially remedied by moving the sight farther towards the muzzle. With the large aperture of the Lyman sight there is no haze, the foresight being seen with perfect clearness, and the distance between the two increasing the accuracy of aim.

Fig. 3 in your article shows what is probably the best of all open reasoning for sporting purposes. The ivory triangle catches the eye and so when a quick shot is required, and the sharp upper angle permits of very fine accuracy when there is time to aim carefully.

It may be asked, of what use is the other leaf with the V shaped notch? I know of only one position in which it is preferable—when standing in the dense shade of a thick wood, and aiming at an object in brilliant sunshine outside, the ivory cannot be distinguished from the dark part of the leaf, but the foresight can be distinctly seen in the angle of a broad V.

The foresight shown in Fig. 5 is obviously intended for target practice only. Of the other Lyman foresights there are two which are specially useful for game-shooting, viz., the "ivory head" and the "ivory hunting" patterns. The latter is the stronger, but the former is strong enough for ordinary rough work, and is, I think, likely to be preferred by British sportsmen.

There is another pattern suitable for those who like to combine a first-rate target and game sight in one. It is shaped much like the Beech sight, but is stronger. It has a covered steel-head, and an open, ivory-tipped column.

Yours truly,

J. J. MEYRICK.

Budleigh Salterton, September 18.

BALACLAVA—October 25, 1854.

I.

Wintry Crimean sky—
Dark landscape—distant roar
Of Black Sea waters, running high
Upon the shore!
Aron, like shadows in the lurid light,
The hosts of battle form—
Here, Western ranks—afar, the Muscovite,
Await the storm!

II.

Trumpet-call—fatal sound!
Thunder of cannonade!
And swift advancing o'er the trembling ground,
The Light Brigade.
Across the valley, as they come in sight,
A fiery rampart runs,
Where flash unceasingly, from left to right,
The Russian guns!

III.

Onwards they come—Dragoon,
And Lancer, and Hussar;
Confronting Death, on this October noon,
With wild hurrah!
Around them flaming cannon—in their front,
A soldier's grave, or glory and renown;
The deadly ordeal of the battle's brunt,
The Victor's Crown!

IV.

"Forward!" is Nolan's cry
On this, his final field:
Facing the foe as one who dares to die,
But scorns to yield.
On sweeps the overwhelming tide of War,
Resistless, sparing none;
And Balacava, famous evermore,
Is nobly won!

MAJOR A. ST. JOHN SEALLY.

—United Service Gazette.