

and made my way, in the best manner I was able, towards a large tree near at hand for shelter; but this precaution was needless; the beast, for the time at least, showed no inclination further to molest me. Easier in the *melle*, or owing to the confusion caused by her wounds, she had lost sight of me, or she felt satisfied with the revenge she had taken. Be that as it may, I escaped with my life, though sadly wounded and severely bruised, in which disabled state I had great difficulty in getting back to my "skarm."

During the greater part of the conflict I preserved my presence of mind; but after the danger was over, and when I had leisure to collect my scattered and confused senses, I was seized with a nervous affection, causing a violent trembling. I have since killed many rhinoceroses, as well for sport as food; but several weeks elapsed before I could again attack those animals with any coolness.

About sunrise, Kamapyu, my half-cast boy whom I had left on the preceding evening, about half a mile away, came to the "skarm" to convey my guns and other things to our encampment. In a few words, I related to him the mishap that had befallen me. He listened with seeming incredulity; but the sight of my gashed thigh soon convinced him that I was not in joke.

I afterwards directed him to take one of the guns and proceed to search in the wounded rhinoceros, cautioning him to be careful in approaching the beast, which I had reason to believe was not yet dead. He had only been absent a few minutes, when I heard a cry of distress. Striking my hand against my forehead, I exclaimed—

"Good God! the brute has attacked the lad also!"

Seizing hold of my rifle, I scrambled through the bushes as fast as my crippled condition would permit; and, when I had proceeded two or three hundred yards, a scene suddenly presented itself that I shall vividly remember to the last days of my existence. Among some bushes, and within a couple of yards of each other, stood the rhinoceros and the young savage; the former supporting herself on three legs, covered with blood and froth, and snorting in the most furious manner; the latter petrified with fear—spell-bound, as it were—and riveted to the spot. Creeping, therefore, to the side of the rhinoceros, opposite to that on which the boy was standing, so as to draw her attention from him, I leveled and fired, on which the beast charged wildly to and fro without any distinct object. Whilst she was thus occupied, I poured in shot after shot, but though she would never fall. At length, however, she sank slowly to the ground and, imagining that she was in her death agonies, and that all danger was over, I walked unhesitatingly close up to her, and was on the point of placing the muzzle of my gun to her ear to give her the *coup de grace*, when, to my horror, she once more rose on her legs. Taking a hurried aim, I pulled the trigger, and instantly retreated, with the beast in full pursuit. The race, however, was a short one; for just as I threw myself into a bush for safety, she fell dead at my feet, so near me, indeed, that I could have touched her with the muzzle of my rifle! Another moment, and I should probably have been impaled on her murderous horn, which, though short, was sharp as a razor.

When reflecting on the wonderful and providential escapes I recently experienced, I could not help thinking that I had been spared for some good purpose, and my heart was lifted in humble gratitude to the Almighty, who has thus extended over me His protecting hand.

The Russian Armouries.

Russia has learnt by the hardest of all tests the inefficiency of the arms served out to her prodigious masses of infantry, and she was as soon as the means permit making exertions to place her army on equal footing with that of the most civilized European powers. That is a task which Russia cannot accomplish in its present condition. From all I could hear it was evident that the establishments for the manufacture of arms had utterly failed to make up the loss of muskets and bayonets at Alma, Inkermann, and in the flight from those fatal fields. In time of peace it was calculated that the factories could produce about 85,000 stand of arms, and about 30,000 bayonets and appurtenances for side arms in the year; but during the war, when the wants of the army became pressing, it was found impossible, as I am informed, to get more than 120,000 muskets and about 30,000 bayonets from Tula, although the workmen were "pressed" from every side, and the machinery was never idle night or day. The new muskets which have been lately turned out are very superior to those with which we found the Russian soldier armed at the Alma, and the crown peasants who form the main body of the Guard Corps, are provided with very excellent rifles, which seem to have been imitated from our first Martini. Great expectations were formed of the services which would be rendered to the besieged by these formidable sharpshooters, in whose ranks, say the Russians, are the best shots in the world—the gamekeepers of the crown forests, accustomed to the pursuit of wild animals, the saboteurs of Siberia, and the hunt-men who pay their tribute in the furs of the inner coated animals of northern and north-eastern Russia. Much enthusiasm was displayed on their departure for the south, and many prayers and blessings took place as they marched forth on their long tramp to the Crimea; but they never got there, and peace was proclaimed ere they got to Perekop. I think our Rifles and the French Chasseurs would have been quite a match for the pick of those much-valued trainees. Of the militia called out in such numbers after the death of Nicholas, many battalions would have gladdened the hearts of our good old English generals, for they were armed with "Brown Bess," and in such perfection, too—real, sound, constitutional flint muskets, pattern of the reign of George II., or thereabouts. The Guard Corps was well armed, and so was part of the Grenadier Corps, but many of the line regiments had only flint muskets, with narrow stocks, converted into detonators, and some of the locks had no half-cock. The latter imperfection might have been the result of accident. I could not ascertain how many workmen were employed in Tula, but one of my informants said they amounted to 10,000 during the war, and they were then about 8,000. Many arms, however, are made in Siberia at two government establishments, the names of which are quite un decipherable as they stand in my notes. There are nearly 1,000 smiths, forgers and hammerers, and a corresponding number of stockmakers, lock-makers and other artificers, who are divided into separate guilds or corporations according to their trades. Two large foundries and many mills worked by water machinery, there being an excellent and constant fall from the streams of the Upa, which runs through the town, are constantly at work. Iron is found in the neighborhood, and the forges Demidoff and other works are supplied by these mines. It is said

that coal is abundant, but the fuel used in the furnaces is wood and charcoal. In the government works, Siberian iron is exclusively employed, and the cavalry swords are manufactured of the same material. Mr. Jones, engaged in 1854 to examine the resources around Tula, found coal in great abundance, but the latter has, I believe, never been worked, because the Russians do not understand how to employ it, and the Tula men do not bear the best reputation. The magazine contained 1,000 specimens of it in a manufactured state, candlesticks, knives and locks, cutlery, cast and wrought iron articles, and very bad guns and pistols, at ridiculously high prices. The trade is highly protected, and a friend of mine, who wished to carry his own gun in Russia (one which had been well used, by the bye) was obliged to pay 60% duty on it at St. Petersburg Custom-house. A Russian sportsman never thinks of using a Tula-made gun if he can afford one of French or English manufacture, and his sporting apparatus is generally marked with some name well known in our coverts.—*Notes on a Tour from Moscow to the Crimea.*

DRUMMING A SOLDIER OUT OF THE SERVICE.—On Wednesday the ceremony of drumming a soldier out of the service took place at Woolwich. The man, whose name is Lee-ward, a gunner belonging to the 12th British Royal Artillery, had been convicted of stealing a comrade's boots, and other disgraceful conduct, for which about a fortnight ago he received the first part of the punishment allotted to him—namely, 50 lashes. Since that time he has been under treatment in the infirmary, and having received the medical certificate to leave the hospital, was brought on the parade-ground fronting the Artillery barracks, where the entire battalion, together with 20 men of the respective battalions stationed at Woolwich, was formed into two lines, extending the whole length of the ground.—On arriving there the sentence of the court-martial was read over, after which two stout drummer-boys stripped off his facings and buttons. This part of the ceremony having been speedily despatched, the "Rogue's March" was struck up by the drums and fife, and the prisoner was marched forward in charge of an armed escort as far as the centre of the lines, where he was halted. The sentence was again read over, after which the music recommenced, and the procession continued its march to the end of the lines of the soldiers, when a final halt was made and the sentence read a third time, and the prisoner was ignominiously marched out of the garrison, and forwarded thence to Coldbath fields, for the term of six months, at the conclusion of which he will be dismissed Her Majesty's service. The prisoner only a short time before leaving the Crimea underwent corporeal punishment for having stolen a horse.

WONDERFUL LONGEVITY.—A lady has lately died at Actopan at the wonderful age of 139 years. We may well say that the oldest inhabitant of Mexico or any other country is dead. One hundred and thirty-nine years! What a history is included in this time! and how trivial must have appeared to her the revolutions and shifts in her country. She had seen in her time twenty-eight changes in the delegates of Spanish power, and has, since the independence of her country, seen the fifty changes which have taken place in the administration of the government. Altogether Mexico has had over 75 changes in the chief magistrate of the country in this woman's life time.