

THE RHYMER'S WAIL

O'ER THE LOSS OF THE GARRISON COMMONS.

The fiat has gone forth, the Common is surrendered ;  
 On fields far distant the butts we now must raise ;  
 Yet in our hearts will fondly be remembered  
 The dear old Commons, dear to us always.  
 No more we'll rise at four of early morning,  
 From downy couch in cottage by the Don,  
 And snatch a hasty bite while still adorning  
 Our person, in our hurry to be gone,  
 No more we'll walk a good six miles or more,  
 Before the sun has got quite out of bed ;  
 To try our best if we can make a score,  
 That on our name great lustre may be shed.  
 No more in Mrs. Curran's parlour shall we meet,  
 To paint on sights artistic lines of white,  
 And history of ancient scores again repeat,  
 While o'er the festive *ginger* all unite.  
 Ah, me ! those happy days have faded in the gone,  
 There's something dewy gathered in my left hand optic ;  
 A haze has gathered where once brightness shone,  
 I fear I'll have to try a Ronan's new Orthoptic.  
 I use the sling and twist it round my arm,  
 I sometimes try the bar, sometimes the V ;  
 But all in vain, the Bull I cannot charm.  
 For when I shoot my steadiest, the magpie's all I see.  
 Oh ! would I had the steadiness of Bell,  
 Tom Mitchell's eyes that ever brightly twinkle ;  
 The grasp of Ogg, that's ever sure to tell,  
 Or even Ronan's latest improved wrinkle.  
 Vain, vain, the wish, I must contented be

To follow in the footsteps of the great ;  
 The little prizes at the bottom are for me,  
 Why, therefore, should I grieve and rail at fate ?  
 But now the Commons are forever closed,  
 My Snider on the wall I'll hang up high ;  
 With all the dignity of a king deposed,  
 That memory of it may never die.  
 And when September's annual show comes round,  
 We'll wander to the old familiar place,  
 And pay our money to get on the ground  
 To see the oxen and the porker's homely face.  
 And once, perhaps, we'll go to see the range,  
 Toronto city gives her volunteers,  
 In lieu the Common, as a fair exchange  
 To help *their* shooting and to calm *her* fears.  
 Then fare thee well, for ever fare thee well,  
 As volunteers we'll never view thee more :  
 As citizens we now, perhaps, may swell  
 The crowd that pay their quarter at the door.

THE RHYMER.

A London despatch of March 10th says : "The test at Shoeburyness of the (so called) Zalinski pneumatic gun, built for the Victoria government, is a pronounced success. At 4,000 yards range six projectiles were thrown into a rectangle two and one half yards wide. The head of the British artillery says that such accuracy is beyond anything he ever conceived possible. The navy is still opposed to the gun for sea purposes."

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