

commends, till the culminating point of the advance is reached, and the whole line will act as circumstances require. We quite agree with him that actions will be decided by a final charge, and the question is how to bring the troops to the point from which that should be made with the minimum of loss? And he has proved conclusively that no radical change is necessary in our tactical formation. We would request our readers attention to a quotation which he gives in the words of a general officer who has been an eye witness of the success of the Prussians in the campaigns of 1866 and 1870-71:

"Careful and accurate drill during peace is the best preparation for celerity and steadiness in war, more than half the movements in the best and most simplified drill book have no greater practical value than to make the men ready perhaps to provide for a case which may occur once in a century, and to practice officers in giving words of command. If all officers and men were equally intelligent and perfectly cool under fire, it might, perhaps be sufficient to drill them in such movements as would be used in the field. But they are not, and therefore careful and elaborate drill cannot be dispensed with. *And those who think that because many field movements are not and cannot be practised under fire, they therefore ought not to be maintained in peace or on the drill ground are, in my humble opinion, being most in the wrong.*"

It was further recommended, that every movement on parade or at drill should be made as if in the presence of an enemy, and that the end of all instruction should be *thorough discipline*, as well as as a complete knowledge of the soldier's weapon.

The talented lecturer has done good service by disabusing the public mind of the idea that a tactical change is at all necessary, and directing attention to the means by which the perfect adaptability of that *thin red line*, which has so often achieved victory, can be secured.

Our readers will recollect that we copied from the *United States Army and Navy Journal*, a letter of General Meigs to the President of the National Rifle Association, on the subject of the method of finding the "trajectory" in our last issue; since then the following on the same subject has appeared in the issue of the 20th Sept.:

To the Editor of the Army and Navy Journal.

"Sir,—The following is a somewhat simpler plan of obtaining the trajectory of a piece than that proposed by General Meigs in your last number. It also gives you a solution of the problem, unaffected by the slight retardation of the projectile caused by its passage through the screens.

To get the trajectory, say for 300 yards, from ordinates at 50 yards intervals, fix your rear sight at the 300 yard mark, and with it so adjusted, aim at the centre of your targets from each of the desired sta-

tions fifty yards apart. The average rise of say five shots from each of the stations will give the corresponding ordinate of the curve. In other words, the target represents the successive screens taken in detail.

M.

SPRINGFIELD, September, 10, 1873.

Our readers can test the accuracy of this method at any time for themselves, and we believe it suggests out further improvements in the adjustments of the graduations on the scale of the Snider Enfield. We hope some of our riflemen will work out this interesting experiment.

We have received from the Secretary of the National Rifle Association, N. Y., a number of copies of the Prize List, with the rules and regulations governing the rifle tournament, which is to come off at Creedmoor L. I., on the 8th October next, and will be happy to mail a copy to any of our readers who may desire it.

The Parliament of Canada has been called together for the DESPATCH OF BUSINESS on the 23rd October next.

REVIEWS.

Blackwood for September contains the following articles: How John was drilled. The Parisians—Book X. Don Carlos, Duke of Madrid. My Active Subaltern. Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, Mr. John Stuart Mill. The Sparrows of the Temple. New Books, &c.

The Leonard Scott Publishing Company, 140 Fulton St. New York.

The *New Dominion Monthly* for September contains a choice assortment of articles, and keeps up fully the high character with which it started.

The *Phrenological Journal* for October, is as usual replete with articles of deep interest.

The *Aldine* for October has been received and is a superb number. The literary contents are unusually brilliant, and the articles of the highest order. The illustrations are as follows:—Nutting (Tint); Elizabeth Valley. Essex County, N. Y.; The Eve of St. Agnes; Silmon Brook; Falling Leaves; The Old Harson Mansion, N. Y.; Opulence and Indigence; Flight of Wild Geese; Angelica Raufmann; "Poor Pussy!" The Hinter-See, Upper Bavaria. We know of no other paper published in the United States to be compared to the *Aldine*, and it must consequently have a large and extended circulation. Mr. Wm. Gledden of the Queen's Printing Office is the Agent for Ottawa, who will be happy to forward all orders for the paper to James Sutton & Co. Publishers, 48 Malien Lane, New York.

Subscription price \$5, including chromos "Village Bello" and "Crossing the Moor"—Either of these chromos is worth more than the years subscription to the paper.

HOW THE COLONEL LOST HIS COFFEE POT.

Don Piatt tells the following story of an English Colonel whom he met during the late war. This Englishman had been fighting in all sorts of wars in all parts of the globe, for and against every body and every cause. His cool disregard of danger and at the same time his anxiety to get into quiet places and comfortable quarters, afforded us infinite amusement. At the battle of Fredericksburg, Captain Myers of the volunteer artillery found himself in a very exposed position, where he was doing himself no good, although he used due diligence and fired away from his one battery in response to the concentrated fire of half a dozen. While thus engaged and worried to see his men and horses killed, Colonel M. rode up.

"Hawt work, Captain" remarked the new comer, reigning in his team.

"Devilish hot," was the response "Never saw such a day, Captain, I don't like it, you know. I've been rather unfortunate. While crossing that horrid river, I lost my coffee pot. I've had that coffee pot all through India and South America, and now I've lost it. I don't know what I'll do without that coffee pot—"

"I'd like to know what I'm kept here for unless they want my battery destroyed" interrupted the captain.

"Aw, Captain, beg pardon, that monkey of an adjutant sent me here to order you out. The General says you are doing no good here; you had better get out, you know."

"Sacro bleu, why didn't you give me the order? I've lost two men and three horses while you talked about a patty coffee pot."

"Never mind, Captain; beg pardon, I'll help you. We'll soon get out of range of the beggars. But an old campaigner cannot afford to lose his coffee pot, you know."

Further discourse was interrupted by a shell that, exploding, blew up a caisson and tumbled all that was left of the concern down the declivity in the rear. Col. M. extricated himself from a dying horse and walked away grumbling.

"Most unfortunate day, lost my coffee-pot and now that horse; but the coffee pot, you know. I cannot replace that; had it in India and all over South America; most unfortunate

The Royal Gun Factories, in the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, England, are now progressing with the manufacture of the guns which are intended to be for the land service what the Woolwich Infants are for the Royal Navy. They will weigh about 38 tons being 3 feet longer than the 35-ton guns. And experiments have yet to be made to decide whether the bore shall be 12in. or 12½ inches in diameter. By increasing the length of the bore the gases generated by the explosion of the powder will exercise a greater pressure upon the base of the projectile, and thereby, it is confidently expected, will increase its velocity and range to a considerable extent. The Royal Carriage Department is just now busy engaged in the manufacture of a number of experimental iron gun carriages for land service. Among others is one for the 35 on gun, the Woolwich Infant, the first ordered for approval.