

On the other hand Don Juan who had the good sense to see that it was no longer possible for either party to avoid an engagement, addressed his would be advisors in a few pithy sentences: "Repair to your vessels, gentlemen," said he, "and encourage all under you to fight courageously. The enemy is in our front and a narrow sea behind! We have, therefore, neither the time nor the place, now, for further deliberation. Then observing that the upper parts of the beaks of his galleys, which projected far above and beyond their prows and served for ornament rather than for use, interfered with the full sweep of his artillery he directed that they should be sawed off, and at the same time, ordered the trumpets of the whole fleet to sound the call to quarters.

In truth, God willed that this fearful battle should be fought; and each chief was impelled to it not less mysteriously it would appear—for each was led to seek for the other by false reports of his adversary's strength and condition—than was Alcibiades, to the capture and sack of Rome by that weird voice which, he averred, ever whispered in his ear: "Go and destroy the capital of the Cæsars!"

The forces of the combatants are so variously given that it is difficult to form a correct estimate of them. The Turks seem to have had about two hundred and seventy vessels, the Christian some thirty less, but this disparity of numbers, the latter more than made up by the greater size of six of their ships, called *gallasses*, which not only carried guns on their poops and fore-castles, as did the galleys, but also *in broadside*. This rendered them extremely formidable; and they no doubt contributed mainly to the defeat of the Turks, a fact which the majority of Spanish historians, in their too evident desire to exalt national and individual prowess, have studiously ignored.

In *personnel*, the Turks were numerically the superiors, their force being nowhere stated at less than one hundred thousand men, while that of the Christians was but little over eighty thousand. But it was a great element of weakness with the former that their vessels were impelled by Christian captives chained to the oar, enfeebled by scant diet and not only dispirited but doubtless made sullen and refractory by blows and other abuse; and although Ali, with the generosity natural to him—for even his enemies speak of him as a man of humane disposition and of true greatness of soul—promised them their liberty if he should prove to be the victor in the fight, thus "inspiring them with a momentary enthusiasm for his cause;" yet it would have been strange if sundry misgivings had not possessed him as his eye glanced upon the opposing galleys, rowed chiefly, as he well knew, by men in the vigor of health and manhood, who had been taught from their infancy to abhor all the various followers of the Prophet who were here gathered together under the blood stained flag of Stamboul. And to some ill defined foreboding of evil may surely be ascribed the shade of sadness which is said to have rested on his face during the whole time that he was resolutely preparing for action, even while he smiled!

(To be continued.)

A Portsmouth (England) correspondent to the *Broad Arrow* writes: "It is now the practice in Stokes Bay, just outside the harbour, to explode the torpedoes once or twice a week in about twenty fathoms of water. The fish, from a smelt to bass, come to the surface and are easily captured

### CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for the bold and expressions of opinion in communications to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

### ANNUAL DRILL AT LEAMINGTON.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Sir,—“Better late than never,” is an old and a time-honored adage, and has suited the conscience of many a procrastinator of precious time. Knowing, sir, full well that military men are supposed to be prompt in their actions, and ever on the alert, I have nothing to offer in extenuation of my procrastination, save the above adage, “better late than never.”

The Leamington Infantry Company under the command of Capt. J. R. Wilkinson, completed their Annual Drill for 1873-74, August 16th, here, at company head quarters. As usual the company mustered strong; three officers, fifty noncommissioned officers and men; total fifty-three. This year the company did not go into camp, but were billeted on the town. Parties, guards, &c. were established in accordance with General Orders, and the Rules and Regulations for the Active Force strictly adhered to, and discipline rigidly enforced, and, I am pleased to report, cheerfully carried out by all concerned. The company made rapid progress in squad, company and skirmishing drill, also in the manual, platoon, and bayonet exercises, under their instructor, Capt. Wilkinson. Forty rounds of ball ammunition was fired by each member at 200, 400, 500 and 600 yards. The average shooting was excellent indeed. The best shot in the company this year was Lance Corporal A. Scratch, 112 points, total score, wind very strong across the range at 500 and 600 yards. Before the completion of the time, the Brigade Major, Lt. Col. Moffat, arrived and minutely inspected the arms, accoutrements and clothing of the men, all of which he found to be in the most satisfactory condition. Captain Wilkinson then took command, and exercised the company as follows: Parading company, manual, platoon and bayonet exercise, also a great number of company movements. The company was then ordered to skirmish, right half company extending, left half in support, and alternately relieving each other. Changing front on the right, left and centre files, advancing firing and retiring, inclining to a flank, forming rallying squares and groups of fours and other movements.

At the conclusion of the inspection the gallant Colonel addressed Capt. Wilkinson, the officers and men, complimenting them in the most flattering terms. He remarked that he was highly pleased with the arms, accoutrements, and clothing of the men, all which he found in excellent condition, also with the clean and soldierly bearing of the men and the splendid manner in which they had performed their drill. He further re-

marked that it afforded him great pleasure to receive (as he had done on arriving), the most flattering reports from the citizens, of the excellent and gentlemanly conduct of the company throughout the time of their stay in town.

The above pleasing state of things is easily accounted for, Sir, the officers take a deep interest in the company, and none but men of good character are admitted to the ranks. The muster roll is full and composed of as fine a body of young men as can be found in the country. Organised at the time of the memorable Trent affair, it has been maintained and kept up to full strength, and always efficient. The company attended Divine Service on the Sabbath of their stay in town, at the M. C. Church, by request, and was appropriately addressed by Rev. Mr. Malcolm.

Before the completion of the drill the District Paymaster, Major Leys, arrived and handed over to the Captain the drill pay, and in addition the County grant of \$4.00 per man. The company was then inspected and payed off in full, all being highly pleased with their annual drill and all concerned. Before separating three hearty cheers were given for the Queen, also for Captain Wilkinson, Lieut. Leyand, Ens. Davidson.

J. R. W.

REPAIR OF GUNS AT FOREIGN STATIONS.—In order to avoid the delay and extra expense involved in bringing home guns from distant foreign stations to England for slight repairs, an arrangement has been made for having such repairs executed at stations selected for the purpose in distant places. Two factories have up to the present been established—one at Esquimaut, Vancouver's Island, for the purpose of the fleet in the Pacific Ocean, and the other at Hong Kong for the fleet in the China Seas, both of which are to be available for the repairs required by guns in the neighbouring British possessions. Naval engineers instructed at the Royal Gun Factories, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich have gone out to superintend the work at those stations, and a number of naval artificers have also gone through a course at Woolwich, and have been supplied with the requisite stores and tools, so as to render them competent to repair and otherwise repair to a certain extent any gun in the Service, from the Abyssinian 7-pounder up to the thirty-five ton Woolwich Infant.

By a Majority of sixty-six the French Assembly has endorsed the Republic and installed McMahon as president for seven years. This action will probably bring the question of Government to an issue. The excitement in the Capital is said to be intense.

Under threat of bombardment by the German fleet, the Carthagenians insurgents have refunded 25,000 pesetas extorted from German subjects in that city.