

DEATH-DEALING WEAPONS.

It may be as a species of excuse for the reverses sustained by the British in several instances during the present Transvaal war, that the "Daily Chronicle," quotes extensively from M. Bloch's work on "War," and insists on the increasing deadliness of modern weapons. Be the object what it may, there is a fund of very interesting information in the article, a synopsis of which we take from an exchange and reproduce for the benefit of our own readers. The summary is this:

"Readers of M. Bloch's great book on war will be surprised at the extent of the losses which are being inflicted on both sides in the Transvaal war (says the "Daily Chronicle"). In a few days' fighting we have lost some seventy officers killed and wounded, and more than four hundred men, and this out of a force numbering not more than eight thousand men engaged. These figures would be staggering if we did not remember the immense development of the destructive element in our fighting machinery. What does M. Bloch say on this point? "In 1870 an ordinary shell when it burst broke into from nineteen to thirty pieces. To-day, it bursts into 240. Shrapnel fire in 1870 only scattered thirty-seven death-dealing missiles. Now it scatters 240. A bomb weighing about 70 lb thirty years ago would have burst into forty-two fragments. To-day, when it is charged with poroxilin, it breaks up into 1,200 pieces, each of which is hurled with much greater velocity than the larger lumps which were scattered by a gunpowder explosion."

"Or take the effect of modern rifle fire. M. Bloch reckons that what with the increased energy and accuracy of the projectile, and the greater number of cartridges at the marksman's disposal, the losses inflicted by this arm will be five times as great as in 1870. Modern covered bullets are effective even in penetrating metal, and the small calibre bullet will penetrate earth to the thickness of 78½ inches, or pierce a tree and strike men sheltering behind it. In olden times the second rank considered itself protected from danger by the first; the coward took refuge behind a companion. The modern bullet may not only penetrate soldiers in the

first two, but even in the third rank. M. Bloch recalls the effects of the shooting at Nirschan during the miners' strike, when ten shots only were fired, but seven men were killed and twenty-five wounded. No doubt this is an extreme case, for the shots were fired at a crowd, but it illustrates the deadly penetrating qualities of modern rifle fire. The improvement in artillery is even more remarkable. The French gun of 1891, for instance, is twenty times more effective than that of 1870. Then again the tendencies of modern strategy make for greater sacrifices of life. The authorities are agreed that the war of the future will consist in the main of a series of battles for the possession of fortified positions. So, at any rate, it has been in Natal, and M. Bloch points out that "the losses suffered in attacking these positions will constantly grow side by side with improvements in arms." The extent to which life is sacrificed must depend a good deal on the way the forces are led and handled. But what if the officers are mown down at the beginning of hostilities in the deadly fashion that has marked the fighting in Natal? There is nothing novel in this excessive and disproportionate loss of officers. In the Chilian war the number of men killed and wounded was 13 per cent. and 60 per cent. respectively, while the number of officers killed and wounded was 23 per cent. and 75 per cent. In the Franco-German war the officers lost twice as heavily in killed and three times as heavily in wounded as the men in the ranks. Grant that officers are bound to expose themselves more than their men to the deadly aim of modern marksmanship, and it follows that their losses will be higher than those of the rank and file. And with their best and bravest leaders struck down how are men to fight with confidence or to save themselves from disastrous slaughter?"

What a change since the days of Waterloo, when Shiel—in his famous speech in reply to Lord Lynhurst, described "the artillery of France levelled with the precision of a most deadly science." All those great engagements of the early nineteenth century were child's play—as far as death rates are concerned—compared to our modern battles.

POWER OF A MISSION.

Beautiful are those pages in "La Semaine Religieuse" last week, in which Rev. Father M. Bernard, O.C.R., details, in language as graphic as it is touching, the wonderful power, or influence of a Catholic mission. He opens with an announcement which is both important and consoling; he states that in a few weeks a grand mission will be given simultaneously in all the parishes of Montreal. It is thus, Mr. Bernard, desires to mark the closing of this century. He desires that from all hearts should arise to the throne of the Lord of Ages, a cry of repentance that will secure mercy, and that the dawn of the new century should be hailed by prayers that must be all the more agreeable to God in as much as they shall be unanimous. He then pictures the missionary work of St. Dominick, St. Francis, St. Ignatius, St. Alphonsus, and the Oblates of Mary. Immaculate exerting their energy and zeal to accomplish their portion of this grace-compelling work. Thus it is that the learned writer approaches his subject—the power of missions. That power he

finds in the strength of the Word of God, daily, and several times daily announced, in the most simple, frank, energetic and comprehensible manner. That power lies also in the hidden, mysterious, but undeniable force that acts upon souls under circumstances of exceptional character, when the abundance of blessings seems to be multiplied by a thousand times. Again, that power consists to a great extent in the force of the good example set. He here dwells upon the effects of the confessional, the conversions operated by the mere sight of numbers flocking to that sacred tribunal, and he appeals to all who have charge or control of others to make it easy for their employees or dependants to profit by the graces of that period. Then the power of the mission is to be found in the apostolate exercised by all pious souls through their prayers, their exhortations, or their sacrifices. But the most marvellous power of the mission comes from the Sacred Heart of Our Lord, and he closes with an eloquent appeal that when the mission ends, all may sing a Te Deum of gratitude for its benefits.

THE CELTIC LANGUAGE.

In this day when the revival of Gaelic literature has become one of the most important movements of the times, every item bearing upon the subject has a deep interest for the lovers of the grand old tongue of our forefathers. The following concerning a sketch map, issued by the secretary of the Pan-Celtic Congress, in which he deals with the present distribution of the living Celtic languages will prove instructive.

"From this it would appear that about three and a quarter millions speak one or the other of the Celtic languages. Brittany comes first with 1,322,000 (879,700 speak Breton only), Wales with 910,000 (508,000 Welsh only), is an excellent second, and Ireland's 680,000 (38,000 Gaelic only), make it a good third. Scot-

land is fourth on the list, her proportion being given as 250,000 (127,000 Gaelic only), and the Isle of Man brings up the rear with from two to three thousand Manx Gaelic speakers.

"The compiler would have greatly enhanced his admirable map by the addition of an approximate estimate of the considerable Gaelic-speaking Scots resident in Nova Scotia and throughout Canada; also in New Zealand, Australia, and elsewhere, as well as the numerous population of Gaelic-speaking Irish in the United States.

"The details as regards Scotland show that contrary to general belief Gaelic speakers may be found in large numbers all over the country, although they predominate in the North and West."

DEATH OF A NUN IN CUBA.

Gen. James R. O'Beirne, of New York, has received a letter from Father Craft describing the funeral of Rev. Mother Mary Anthony, assistant general of the Congregation of American Indian Sisters. She died on Sunday, October 15th, while attending services in the chapel at Pinar del Rio, Cuba. She was buried October 17th by United States soldiers. Father Craft writes: "I read the burial service, the same

as for a soldier. The firing party fired three volleys over the grave, and the bugler sounded 'taps.' She was much beloved by the soldiers whom she had nursed back to health at the sacrifice of her own life, and American soldiers mingled their tears and prayers with those of Cubans and Spaniards."

Mother Anthony was a granddaughter of Chief Spotted Tail and grandniece of Chief Red Cloud.

LADY ABERDEEN IN NEW YORK.

Although not exactly an item of news, from Ireland still the following clipping is of considerable interest to Irish people, both at home and abroad. It deals with the continued exertions of the Countess of Aber-

deen in the development of Irish industries.

With the Countess of Aberdeen, who sailed for England, Saturday November 4, on the Campania, the Irish Industries Association has become a fact. Lady Aberdeen came to New

York with Mrs. Peter White to make arrangements for an Irish fair to be held at the Waldorf-Astoria next spring under the auspices of her organization.

This association was formed in 1886, to boom the manufactures of Ireland. One of Lady Aberdeen's projects has been to open depots for the sale of wares made in Ireland. Special attention has been paid to women's work. Mrs. Peter White is in charge of one of the depots in Chicago. Speaking of her work, the countess said recently:

"Now is the opportunity for the Irish workers. The skill of Irish fingers is universally recognized; the excellence of Irish goods is being admitted. So now is the time to go in and win, and, therefore, whatever be the industry, let no effort be spared to produce the very best, to take advantage of all instruction attainable, and to get the best designs and to go on, ever doing better and better work, and doing every detail perfectly, and sending it off to the market perfectly clean and perfectly packed. And so the reputation of Irish industries will become higher and higher and we shall be prouder and prouder of having anything to do with them."

A man talks about owning his business. But, as a matter of fact, his business owns him. His whole life is regulated by the demands of the business. The time at which he rises, his breakfast hour, the time given to meals, are all determined by business obligations. He rushes through lunch because he "can't spare the time from business" to eat leisurely. He won't take a rest because he is needed at the store or office. He is in fact an absolute slave to business. The results which follow this slavery are to be seen on every hand. Men dyspeptic, irritable, nervous with drawn faces, and hollow eyes, sit at the desk or stand behind the counter until they collapse in a fit of sickness, or are taken away by heart failure. Those who cannot escape the exacting demands of business will find a friend in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. It strengthens the stomach, increases the action of the blood-making glands, increasing the vitality and physical vigor. It makes men strong and prevents those business break downs which so often terminate fatally.

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Dame Marie Anthelme Baehand, of the parish of Saint Bruno, in the district of Montreal, wife of Wilfrid Senechal, farmer of the same place, and duly authorized *ad hoc* Justice, Plaintiff:
Vs.
The said Wilfrid Senechal, Defendant.
An action in separation as to property has been this day instituted in this case.
GLOBENSKY & LAMARRE,
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Montreal, 17th October, 1899. 16—5

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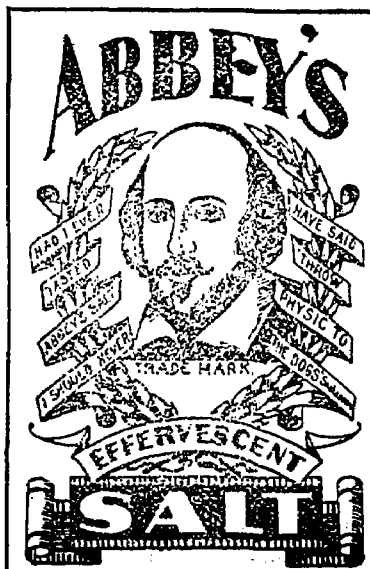
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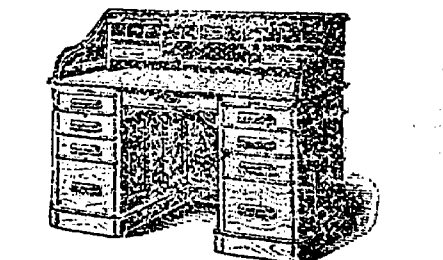
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