

## OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, Oct. 5, 1871.

Sir W. G. Armstrong & Co. are very busy making guns, and an agent of Dr. Gatling, the patentee of the invention known as the celebrated "Gatling Battery Gun," is at present in Newcastle, making arrangements with Sir William Armstrong & Co. for the manufacture of a number of those most important accessories to modern warfare. Her Majesty's Government has already given orders to the Elswick Ordnance Company to supply 36 of these weapons for experimental purposes; 24 of the quantity ordered are to be of a small size, with barrels of a calibre of 0.577 inches, at a cost of £245 each, and will be available for field service, a certain portion to be attached to each battery of artillery in the field; the remaining twelve are to be of the description termed "medium sized" Gatling, and will possess a calibre of 0.75 inches. Their cost will be £325 each. These last it is proposed to make use of in case-mated forts or garrison batteries. They are all to be supplied with an apparatus termed the "Kinne attachment," by which the gun traverses itself as the crank is revolved, through the agency of a "double action V. screw." This, however, can be thrown out of gear by a simple movement, if the aim is required to be stationary. The improvement by which such of the locks as may be damaged can be withdrawn at any time through an aperture in the rear casing of the lock cylinder, will also be adopted. Owing to the recent strikes in the North of England, the process of manufacturing the guns could not be proceeded with during the past spring and summer months; but now that Dr. Gatling's agent is actively employed in pushing the matter forward, we trust shortly to hear that the order has been completed, and ere long that every field battery in our corps of Royal Artillery has been provided with "a machine gun." The nature of the rifling to be adopted has been another cause of delay in manufacture; that made use of by the United States not being considered altogether satisfactory.

The importance which will probably attach to the use of such weapons for our future armaments can hardly be over-estimated. Their terrible effect and precision of aim will be understood when we state that the result of experimental practice at Shoeburyness proved them to be equal in their destructive powers to all other known guns—including small arms—at 300 yards, and immeasurably superior to the best from that distance up to 1,000 yards. What they can do beyond such a range has not as yet been shown decisively, for at the trial adduced, the Gatling gun was only sighted up to 1,000 yards, and the practice made by it at 1,500 yards, although not particularly good, was no criterion of what it could do.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England have had a successful meeting at Wolverhampton. Perhaps a short sketch of the formation and progress of the Royal will be of interest to Canadian readers.

The society originated in a conversation at the Smithfield Club dinner, in the year 1837, over which the first Earl Spencer—a name inseparable from agricultural progress—presided. A short time after, Mr. Hauley, also a name well known in connection with farming, communicated with his lordship on the subject of forming an association in the place of the Board of Agriculture, which was dissolved in 1816; and about the middle of 1837 a meeting—attended by, among others favourable to the idea, the Duke of Richmond, the Earl of Chichester, Sir Robert Peel, and Sir James Graham—was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, and the society formed, under the title of the English Agricultural Association, the resolution on which it has all along held aloof from party politics being moved by the late Sir Robert Peel. The first list of members comprised 265 names, including eight peers, of whom the late Duke of Wellington was one. The first Show held by the society took place at Oxford in July, 1839; and it is interesting to observe from what small beginnings the association has grown to its present proportions, and gained for itself a name which is known all over the civilized world. The total number of entries was only 406, and there were but 48 prizes altogether, varying in amount from five to fifty guineas, the total sum distributed not exceeding £849. Machinery seems to have been almost completely ignored, or at least was confined to swing-ploughs and patent harrows, the number of entries of implements being 221, shown by fifteen makers. The whole area of the show yard comprised but four acres, and the total cash received for admission to the show yard was £1,209. The aims of the Society, as set forth in the royal charter, are—"The general advancement of English agriculture and the attainment of the following national objects, viz:—First, to embody such information contained in agricultural publications and in other scientific works as has been proved by practical experience to be useful to the cultivators of the soil. Second, to correspond with agricultural, horticultural, and other scientific societies, both at home and abroad, and to select from such correspondence all information which, according to the opinion of the Society, may be likely to lead to practical benefit in the cultivation of the soil. Third, to pay any occupier of land, or other person (who shall undertake, at the request of the Society, to ascertain by any experiments how far such information leads to useful results in practice), a remuneration for any loss that he may incur by so doing. Fourth, to encourage men of science in their attention to the improvement of agricultural implements, the construction of farm buildings and cottages, the application of chemistry to the general purposes of agriculture, the destruction of insects injurious to vegetable life, and the eradication of weeds. Fifth, to promote the discovery of new varieties of grain, and other vegetables useful to man, or for the food of domestic animals. Sixth, to collect information with regard to the management of woods, plantations, and fences, and on every other subject connected with rural improvement. Seventh, to take measures for the improvement of the education of those who depend upon the cultivation of the soil for their support. Eighth, to take measures for improving the veterinary art, as applied to cattle, sheep, and pigs. Ninth, at the meetings of the Society in the country, by the distribution of prizes, and by other means, to encourage the best mode of farm cultivation and the breed of live stock. Tenth, to promote the comfort and welfare of labourers, and to encourage the improved management of their cottages and gardens." The excellent objects

thus set forth have been steadily kept in view, and their accord with the sense and feeling of the country has been sufficiently testified by the marvellous success which the Society has achieved. In now numbers some 6,000 members, and has an accumulated fund exceeding £30,000. A few of the statistics of the present meeting, just by way of comparison, will show the enormous strides made by the Society in rather over thirty years, and will at the same time indicate the progress of agriculture during the same period. The entries of live stock alone number nearly 1,300, and the aggregate value of the prizes amounts to the very large sum of close upon £5,000. Agricultural implements, machinery, and general exhibits, compose a large part of the show, the number of stands being 363, in which are shown no less than 7,650 articles. The area of the show yard, instead of being four acres, measures upwards of sixty. Such is the early history and object of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, which held its thirty-second annual exhibition at Wolverhampton this year.

The strike in Newcastle is now at an end, the men coming off victorious.

A match between the Chambers' four-oared crew and Winship's comes off in a month's time. Great excitement prevails and large sums of money are being laid.

The "Home Rule" movement in Ireland is causing considerable anxiety amongst commercial men. Politicians are active, and journalists are flocking to Ireland, to see and hear for themselves, what cause there is for "Home Rule." Mr. Gladstone has publicly announced his determination to resist it. So has the Home Secretary, Mr. Bruce. Disraeli is careful, yet, in committing himself, until he sees the "Home Rule" programme.

The foot and mouth disease amongst cattle is very prevalent in England. Butchers' meat is now 11d or 22c. per pound. We have had a successful harvest.

R. E.

## OUR CANADIAN PORTRAIT GALLERY.

## No. 88.—THE LATE COL. BALDWIN

It does seem to us that the Province of Ontario has an act of restitution to make to the family of the late Col. Baldwin, in his lifetime so highly respected and so very generally known throughout Upper Canada. The claim of Col. Baldwin's family is not unlike that of the Bouchette family against the Province of Quebec. Both are good in equity, and the Legislatures of each Province ought to discharge them. We are quite sure that the people would sustain their representatives in voting such an appropriation to the parties interested as would vindicate the public honour and satisfy the claims of justice. The following letter, which we copy, will explain the facts in Col. Baldwin's case, which needs no long or laboured argument to support it:

(From the United Service Gazette, Sept. 16th.)

MR. EDITOR,—Your journal being the military organ of the United Kingdom, and a proper medium for drawing the attention of all who may feel for the undeserved misfortunes of the family of a brave officer, now dead, and who may feel inclined to aid in alleviating their distress, I take the liberty of asking you to insert in the *Gazette* the following facts:—The late Col. Baldwin first entered the service of his country, in the navy, at the early age of fourteen years, and through ill health was obliged to leave that service; but, bent on a military career, he joined the army at sixteen, in the 83rd Regiment, from which he was promoted into the 50th, upon the express recommendation of the late Sir Thomas Picton, one of whose aides-de-camp he was, on account of his gallantry. Whilst serving in the Peninsula with these regiments, he was present at the battles of Talavera, Busaco, Fuentes d'Onor, Balafox, Salamanca, Vittoria, Nive, Nivelle, Orthes, Toulouse, for which he was awarded a medal with ten clasps; at Talavera he was wounded in the head; at Balafox, leading stormers, he was twice thrown from the scaling ladders; and at Fuentes d'Onor he received a ball through his arm, for which he had a pension. In the 87th Regiment he acted as brigade-major in Jamaica and in other parts of the West Indies. About 1823 he came to Canada, having retired on half-pay, and settled near Toronto, on land where he resided until his death in 1861. In the rebellion of 1837 and 1838, and when invasion from the United States was imminent, he raised a regiment and promptly carried it to the frontier. The necessity of immediate service precluded him from advertising for tenders for clothing his regiment, and he contracted with a clothier at Toronto, who furnished, as it afterwards appeared on service, worthless clothing, which was replaced by Col. Baldwin. On the return of the troops from service, and the colonel's refusal to pay for this worthless material, he was sued by the contractor, and in order to pay the amount of the judgment, was obliged to sell his half pay, and from that time until he died he had a struggle for existence, and at his death left a widow and six daughters (all young) unprovided for. His son, Mr. Thomas Baldwin, became an ensign in the 100th Regiment, raised in Canada, and whilst at Gibraltar, took the Rock fever, and died very soon after he went to Ireland on sick leave. Thus the last stay of this helpless family was cut off in the service, and the widow and daughters left without a protector. The family have suffered, and are still suffering, great misery in this hyperborean climate of Canada, and know not where to look for assistance to relieve them from their pitiable fate. Some friends of the late Col. Baldwin advised a petition to the Honourable the House of Assembly and Government of the Province of Ontario, which was presented, but, unfortunately, was refused a hearing. The sole cause of the misfortune of this brave and unselfish soldier was his devotion to his country's service, and by it his family has been ruined and left destitute, yet such is the apathy of feeling in the Parliament of the Province in which Col. Baldwin lived, that the petition in behalf of his suffering family has been refused a hearing. If this sad but true tale has produced an interest in your breast, may I ask you to make it known through your columns, which may, I hope, lead to a recognition of the claims of the widow and those dependent on her, in quarters powerful to aid and sustain them?—I am, &c.

A VOLUNTEER OF 1837.

Melbourne, Province of Quebec,  
August 13, 1871.

## No. 89.—THE LATE PAUL KANE.

Among native Canadian artists the name of Paul Kane deserves to hold high rank. His sudden death on the 20th of February last, from an abscess of the liver, was deeply regretted by the many friends who knew the gentle and genial qualities of his nature. His father was a retired English officer, and his mother a Dublin lady of good family. Paul was born at Toronto on the 3rd Sept., 1810, and was, consequently, in his sixty-first year at the time of his death. He was educated in Toronto, and there commenced the study of painting. More than thirty years ago he visited Italy in pursuance of his art, studying the treasures of Rome, Naples, Genoa, Florence, Venice, and Bologna. While in Rome a medal was conferred on him by Pope Gregory the sixteenth, bearing the coat of arms of His Holiness. After an absence of about nine years, Mr. Kane returned to Canada, and travelled extensively throughout the Southern and Western States, and the British North American territories. As the result of these travels, he gave to the world the "Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America," published in London (Eng.) in 1859 by Messrs. Longman & Co. This work excited very great interest at the time of its publication, from the large mass of valuable information it contained, as well as on account of its numerous and life-like illustrations. The work was highly commended by the leading English reviews, and to show that it was regarded with equal favour on this side the Atlantic, we take the liberty of quoting from a New York paper the following notice, written, we believe, by Mr. F. S. Cozzens, who knew Mr. Kane, and appreciated his talents:—

PICTURES OF INDIAN LIFE.—Among the literary items in a late number of the London *Examiner*, we find a notice of a work lately published there by Longman & Co., entitled "Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America," etc. The artist whose experiences are thus given to the world, is Mr. Paul Kane, of Toronto, Canada, who made a long sojourn, some twelve or fourteen years ago, among the wild tribes roaming the banks of the Columbia River and the ravines of Oregon, extending his explorations to the then scarcely heard of Island of Vancouver. Entirely "on his own hook," and as ready with his rifle as with his pencil, this brave pathfinder devoted himself to the task of commencing by his art the remarkable men and manners and customs of the strange communities of which, from time to time, he found himself a transient member. The result of these labours appeared in many hundred clever sketches brought home by him on his return to Canada. From these sketches he steadily set himself to work out an extensive series of oil paintings, embodying all that is interesting and curious in the wild prairie and mountain life of the remote regions traversed by him. Several years were devoted by him to the completion of these remarkable records of the races whose extinction is as inevitable as the advancing track of the fire-car of the "children of the pale faces," whose only monuments are the trees that fall and perish; and whose architectural remains annually resolve themselves into a heap of rotten birch-bark and black ashes. The true records of these passing tribes are the transcripts brought from among them by the hardy adventurer whose graphic power is united to the physical endurance indispensable to him who would grapple with the hostilities of the savage wilderness. Of such men is Paul Kane. In the life-pictures painted by him—the greater number of which are now in the collection of Mr. G. W. Allan, of Toronto—is embodied a history of the latter days of the red man, displaying him in his various phases of costume, from the primitive and scanty garb of half a dozen streaks of paint and a feather, through the several stages of buckskin and blanket until he becomes more civilized and less of a gentleman. In their summer ramble to Canada, Americans may see twelve of Mr. Kane's pictures in the Parliamentary Library at Toronto, by which they were purchased by a special grant—the spirit of a private gentleman outbidding the Government, we believe, for the whole series, which should have been secured by them as the germ of a characteristic national collection. The book mentioned at the commencement of this article, is the result of the journals kept by the artist throughout his wanderings, and must be a work of great interest, owing to the author having found his way into many by-ways diverging from the best known paths of that singular region. We have not seen the book, but hold ourselves qualified to speak upon it, from our long established acquaintances with Paul Kane, his pictures, and his *Wanderings* narratives of what he saw and went through, all of which, doubtless, is well set forth in his "Wanderings."

During the later years of his life, Mr. Kane, having settled down in his native city, pursued his favourite art until his eyesight failed him. As alluded to above, his chief patrons were the Hon. G. W. Allan, and the Canadian Government. Among his best productions, outside his Indian scenery, is a full length portrait of Queen Victoria, after the picture by Chalons. His death was quite sudden, he having walked to the city in the afternoon of the day on which he died. In the *Canadian Journal* appeared, from the pen of Prof. D. Wilson, an able review of his artistic abilities, and a sketch of his life. A writer in the *Athenaeum* in reviewing his travels, described him as "an American artist who had studied in Europe, and apparently unites the refinement of the old world with the energy of the new." Such an artist well deserves a place in our Canadian portrait gallery.

## THE CHILDREN'S OFFERING.

This is the work of a foreign painter, Gabe, concerning whom we have been quite unable to glean any tidings, except to learn that he is not now living. There is evidence of much true taste and poetic feeling in this simple composition: seated on the shaft of a large fluted column, which, with the massive Corinthian capital, might have been, in long past ages, a portion of a magnificent temple, is a young girl who has woven a chaplet of flowers to do honour to the Virgin.