

Sebastopol, owing to a few rash blunders he had committed, MacMahon was appointed next in command to General Bosquet, who superseded Canrobert; and to him fell the onerous duty of leading the assault against the formidable Malakoff fort, which was the principal key to the Russian position. For such work MacMahon was admirably fitted. Not imaginative enough for strategist, he was perfectly at home whenever it became a question of carrying some fixed position by sheer dint of bravery and patience. When Sebastopol fell, and peace was declared, General MacMahon was appointed a Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, one received the Grand Cross of the Bath from Queen Victoria. In 1856 he was further raised to the Imperial Senate, a distinction which carried with it a salary of \$6000 a year. Two years after this MacMahon distinguished himself by an act of political honesty, which well nigh wrecked all his future prospects, and which the Emperor never wholly forgave. After the attempt of Orsini on Napoleon's life in 1858 a Draconian bill was introduced in the Senate providing for the arbitrary arrest and transportation without judgment of suspected persons. MacMahon conceived this bill to be iniquitous, and he voted against it, though he was the only Senator who did so, the patriotic courage to do so. Being told that the Emperor was seriously displeased, with much nobly answered nobly, "I am sorry, that, for the Emperor," and this reply being reported at the Tuilleries, Napoleon frowned from that day on MacMahon, and for the next twelve months never spoke to him at court. In 1859, however, the Italian war broke out, and the clever movement by which General MacMahon saved the French army at Magenta obliged the Emperor to give him a conspicuous reward. There is no doubt that if MacMahon had not taken it upon himself to come without orders to the rescue of the Imperial Guards, whom Napoleon had imprudently jeopardized by pitting them against a hostile force three times superior to them, the French army would have sustained a crushing defeat and probably the Empire itself would have collapsed. MacMahon was created field Marshal and Duke of Magenta; but it was well said at the time that it was not the Emperor who bestowed these distinctions; they were conferred on the conquering General by the unanimous clamour of the French Army.

It is no secret that after the Italian war Napoleon began to look upon MacMahon with mistrust. The Marshal was too popular and too independent to please a sovereign who expected all his servants to be absolutely submissive. Besides, the Emperor had a weakness, which was to consider himself an able General, like his uncle, and MacMahon's ascendancy over the army was a matter of constant irritation and jealousy to him. He refused even to appoint MacMahon War Minister, or to give him a command of troops in or near Paris; and in 1864 he sent him in virtual exile to Algiers as Governor-General. There MacMahon remained till the outbreak of the Prussian war, in 1870, governing the troublesome colony strictly and yet kindly; and there he might have ended his days if the Empire had survived. However, the Empire started in 1870 on its road to ruin, and MacMahon was among the most active though unfortunate of its latter-day defenders. Of his defeat at Woerth, Monfriedy, Beaumont, Döpp, Bazilles, and, lastly, at Sedan, it is needless to speak. MacMahon was everywhere overmatched, and the evidence

elicited at the Bazille trial proves that the measures he himself took for the safety of his army were always overridden by the Emperor. No Frenchman lays on MacMahon's shoulders the responsibility of his defeats. He is called "*L'heroique vaincu*;" for it is known that he went into battle as a victim, and that he did his best against insuperable odds. MacMahon's defeat of the Commune put the crown to his prestige with the army, and he is now reaping the fruits of a career which has been stainless from the first. He is justly regarded as a man who loves his country with a devoted affection, and has served her through sunshine and sorrow, nobly, heartily, and disinterestedly.

The Vienna *Vedette* has an article on the mitrailleuse, which has lately been introduced into the Austrian army, and of which it takes on the whole a most encouraging view, though it did not quite meet its expectations in the Franco-Prussian war. But this was not owing, the *Vedette* thinks, to any defects of construction, but to the fact that it was a strange weapon in inexperienced hands. The difficulty of finding the range with it is its most serious defect, the *Vedette* says, and to remedy this it proposes to attach to each mitrailleuse battery two light field-pieces, so as to ascertain the range up to two thousand yards by the bursting of the projectiles, and if not more than two out of six mitrailleuses are effective in their fire, even this, the *Vedette* remarks, will be sufficient to render the movements of a column impossible, even at two thousand yards; for mitrailleuse can fire, with ease, 1000 or 200 shots in a short time, and nearly all of them effective; no small advantage in the field where so small a percentage of the bullets do any execution. The field piece could, moreover, reply to the enemy's heavy fire, and if necessary shell them out from houses or other covers.

Our own Gatling is so superior to the French imitation, that far better service could be obtained from it under the conditions which favor the use of the machine gun. In comparison with the French gun it proved marked superiority, according to the testimony of the British board, in destructive effect, command of range, strength and simplicity of mechanism, facility of repair, and the demoralizing effect of its continuity of fire, while it required fewer men to handle it. Of the Gatlings which the English are now about to put to the test on the Gold Coast, *Broad Arrow* says:

The artillery supplied to Sir Garnet Wolseley must, to many of our readers, be a subject of considerable interest. The country in which he is going to operate consists, for the most part, according to all accounts, of thick jungle, with narrow paths for roads. Horse or bullock draught is unknown, and locomotion depends upon manual labor. It would have been manifestly absurd, therefore, to send out 9-pounder or 16-pounder field-guns, which could not move up country without some species of four-footed traction; and in all similar cases, in mountainous countries or in those inaccessible to ordinary artillery carriages, it has always been found necessary to employ very light guns and equipment, which are usually transported either on the backs of mules or on specially constructed carriages designed for man-draught. The artillery which Sir Garnet Wolseley will take into the field is of this nature. He will first have one or two batteries of 7-pounder rifled guns, four guns per battery. He will also have a battery of

little smooth-bore howitzers, a few Gatling guns, and some 9 pound Hale rockets. This will comprise his artillery. His infantry will be armed with breech loading Sniders, and his irregular or auxiliary forces with muzzle-loading Enfield rifles or smoothbore muskets. The Gatling guns which accompany the expedition are those known as the 0.45 inch. They will be mounted on carriages somewhat similar to the guns, and we presume are mainly intended for the defence of stockaded positions and for use in the open. When well served, the machine gun is terribly effective at distances of from 400 and 600 yards.

Five of the locks and barrels are constantly performing some of the operations of loading and firing, while the other five are extracting the empty cases, and it is evident that so long as cartridges are dropped into the hopper, and the handle is in motion, the firing will continue. In this manner a perfect rain of bullets may issue from the ten muzzles. The gun is also fitted with an arrangement by which a traversing motion may be given to the barrels while the firing continues. It is obvious that it would be absurd constantly to fire a Gatling gun in one direction. A few men immediately in front would be perforated, while those on the flanks would escape. But the traversing arrangement enables us to "waterpot" the enemy with a leaden rain. Altogether, we cannot wish the Ashantees worse luck than to get in the way of a Gatling well served.

THE MAUSER RIFLE, AND THE QUESTION AS TO WHICH IS THE BEST RIFLE.

Some time ago we gave our readers an account of some experiments which had been carried out in Prussia to test the capabilities of the Mauser rifle as to accuracy and the number of shots it could fire in a given time. The results, as compared with those which have been obtained with the Henry-Martini at Wimbledon and elsewhere, were decidedly in favour of the latter arm.

An article which has appeared in the Russian military periodical, *L'Oronjeik Sbornik*, or "Review of Long-range Fire arms," under the title, "Actual State of the Manufacture of Fire-arms in England, Belgium, Prussia, and Austria," contains some interesting remarks on the subject which forms the heading to this article. It is from the pen of an officer of high rank, who has been superintending some searching experiments with regard to the question of long-range small arms. We take the following from it:—

"The Prussians, whilst acknowledging that the needle-gun has had its day, hesitated to give large orders for the Mauser rifle. In this they have shown circumspection; and this indecision proves that they have not perfect faith in those results which by other Powers are considered as decisive results from which it appears that each believes that the problem has been solved to his own advantage. It is actually stated that attention is at present being paid to improving the Mauser system, that the imperfections of this arm are being remedied. In what do these alterations consist? It would be difficult to point out, as they are being carried out with the greatest secrecy. The result of all this is that we cannot say what will be the pattern actually adopted, and if it will present any feature quite peculiar to it, distinguishing it completely from those which other Powers have adopted into their service.