

advisable to put them into winter quarters. This, by far the best managed and most gallant action of the war, delivered Lower Canada from fear of invasion by the valley of the Champlain for this campaign.

The American Secretary at war, finding that all his efforts to retain possession of the Western Peninsula were fruitless, determined to suddenly withdraw all the forces from the Niagara frontier, transport them to Sackett's Harbor, and from thence make a descent on Kingston. After considerable discussion between himself and General Wilkinson, it was determined, at the suggestion of the latter, to leave this post and all others in Upper Canada in the rear, to push for Montreal by way of the St. Lawrence, and co-operate with Hampton in his attack thereon. With this intention he embarked nearly 10,000 men on upwards of 300 batteaux, and escorted by a division of gunboats, dropped down the St. Lawrence on the 3rd November, and having made a portage above Ogdensburg to avoid the guns of Fort Wellington, landed between 3,000 and 4,000 men at the head of the Long Sault rapids, on the Canadian shore. Here they were met at a place called Chrysler's Farm, by some 800 men, about half of which were regular troops, the remainder Militia, under Lieut.-Col. Henry Morrison, Pearson and Plenchleate, and totally defeated in one of the best fought and most scientific actions of the war. Close on this disaster came the news that Hampton had been obliged to look to his own safety, and place his troops in winter quarters, so that Montreal, thanks to DeSalaberry and the gallant French Canadians, had to be postponed to a more favorable time.

This foolish and injudicious movement having terminated so disastrously for the Americans, the British were enabled to resume the offensive, and drove them from Fort George on the 10th December; but the general officer (McClure) commanding the United States army previous to the evacuation, barbarously set fire to the village of Newark, or Queenston, depriving upwards of 400 women and children of shelter in the middle of a Canadian winter, although the scoundrel left the barracks, stores and quarters for troops, legitimate objects of destruction in warfare, standing and uninjured. For this he pleaded the orders of the Secretary at War. In retaliation for this, Fort Niagara was surprised on the 18th December, and all the towns on the American frontier laid in ashes.

Disastrous and disgraceful as the campaign of 1813 was to the British arms, its termination, as Canada was concerned, was entirely in their favor, and with all possible advantages which could be secured.

DEFERRED.—We are reluctantly obliged to defer the publication for a week of a most interesting lecture on gunnery, delivered by Capt. Brancker, R. A., before the Montreal Drill Association a short time ago. We also hold over till our next a communication signed "A Volunteer Captain."

We present our readers this week with a well-executed engraving of the Snider-Enfield breech-loader, which, with a complete description, will be found on the sixth page. We have procured the cut at the solicitation of many of our readers, who desire to gain a thorough knowledge of the mechanism of a weapon with which it is the present intention of our Government in a short time to arm the Volunteers.

NEW CANADIAN BREECH-LOADER.

On Wednesday last the editor of this journal visited Lacolle, C. E., and examined the new breech-loading rifle invented by Captain Stoakes of that village, a short description of which was given in last week's Review. We have no hesitation in pronouncing it BY FAR THE BEST GUN YET INVENTED. This may appear a strong statement, but an examination of the weapon will convince the most sceptical of its superiority over every known breech-loader. The mechanism of the Peabody rifle has been, up to this time, considered the greatest victory of inventive genius as applied to the construction of firearms, and certainly, were the gun otherwise perfect, it is much superior to either the Snider or Remington. It has, however, five motions in loading, and there are not less than 18 different pieces in the construction of the breech alone. Capt. Stoakes' rifle is loaded with three motions, and has but eleven pieces in the breech. Its great superiority however lies chiefly in his having dispensed altogether with the use of the trigger in discharging the gun. The arrangement in this respect is new and simple, containing an important principle for correct firing. The heavy pull of the common trigger, unless with an experienced marksman, (who, too, had always to guard against the difficulty) of necessity disarranged the sight, and made rifle shooting, at the best, more or less a matter of chance. To discharge this gun two small knobs are pressed at the same time by the finger and thumb, and as the pressure is quite as heavy below as above, the weapon is not moved in the slightest by the action of firing. The loading arrangement is so perfect and simple that the gun may be fired with quite the rapidity of a repeating rifle. The description given last week we found correct in every particular. The breech is very firm, and it possesses a contrivance for preventing the escape of gas more simple and effective than any other breech-loader we know of. With most of the breech-loaders there is danger of getting the face burned if the metal cartridge should prove defective. But Capt. Stoakes' might be fired with a paper cartridge without any escape of gas. The contrivance which throws the breech open throws out the debris of the spent cartridge. Another cartridge is put in its place by a single motion, from a magazine carried by a strap from the shoulder, by a very ingenious contrivance, and one more motion closes the lock ready

for firing. The cartridge is not taken in the hand at all. A man with his mitts on might fire it, and here the advantage over the Bolland and other rifles is very great. The drawings are now being engraved expressly for THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW, which, with a complete description, will appear in our next issue.

WEEKLY SUMMARY.

THE Luxemburg question seems now to be finally settled, and the treaty to that effect signed. Both nations, France and Prussia, have ceased their warlike preparations, and the former has given orders for the immediate disbandment of the reserves called for at the beginning of the present month. The leading newspapers of France and the United States vie with each other in attributing the happy solution of the vexing problem to the personal interference and influence of our beloved Queen. It is with unconcealed pleasure that we offer to Matthew Arnold and the followers of Macaulay this further proof that the star of England is NOT YET on the wane.

A Hanoverian plot has been nipped in the bud, having for its object the assassination of the King of Prussia and Count Bismarck. Several persons of high standing in Germany are implicated, and numerous arrests have been made.

The Emperor of France is entertaining, and will continue to entertain, a host of the royal notabilities of Europe, among whom we might mention the Prince of Wales, Prince Alfred, the King of Greece, the King of Prussia, the Emperor of Prussia and the Sultan.

In the case of the 'Queen Victoria' and that of the 'Tornado,' we learn that the Spanish Government have consented fully to indemnify the owners and crew, punish those officers who were guilty of the illegal seizure of the two vessels, and salute the British flag. As soon as one difficulty is disposed of, another difficulty presents itself to the now rather shaky government of Spain in the shape of internal disturbances. Numerous arrests have been made in Catalonia and other parts of the country; fears are entertained that a political crisis is at hand. We doubt not that the days of the reign of Isabella, the last of the Bourbon race, are numbered. Leading the life of a tyrant, with a court notorious for its immorality, her subjects cannot be inspired with those feelings of love and respect for her person which animate the breast of those whose happiness it is to live beneath the sway of a virtuous sovereign, and the space of time will perhaps be short ere she will be driven from her throne.

Notwithstanding the Sultan's reply to the Great Powers, on being petitioned to cede Candia to Greece, that he can crush the rebellion in that island, we find that the insurgents claim to have defeated in two battles, with great loss, one of the most famous