

"120 Fleet Street, Sept. 24, 1863.

"MY DEAR CHARLES—Although we had an adverse wind all the way, we made without difficulty the port we were bound for. My aunt, in spite of the weight of her fifty years enjoyed the trip much, and is ready to sail again. I hope you will think of the time you promised on the 15th, and come yourself as our party is much smaller, and we should enjoy the visit.

"When I was in London last week I saw our cousin Harry, fresh from Windsor. There is little change to be observed in him—not so much as you would expect. Come tons on Friday.

"Yours, very aft..

"ELINOR B."

Sir George read this out loud, from beginning to end, and then said: "Do you see anything suspicious in that?" It seems to me very innocent."

"It may be. Was there anything else in the desk?" said he addressing Parker.

"You may go and look," growled that potentato, and he led the way, the expert following.

The desk was quite empty, with the exception of two or three scraps of waste paper. On one of these the expert pounced, and returned with an air of elation to the other room.

He then unfolded this scrap of paper, and disclosed a half sheet, exactly the size of the paper on which Elinor Beaumont's letters were written, in which oblong holes at intervals had been cut.

He then placed this half sheet over the letter, and handed both, thus placed, to Sir George, whose astonished eyes read the following words, which the holes left visible:

"Fleet wind-bound. Fifty sail of the line. 25 smaller. Should the wind change, expect us on Friday."

"The devil!" said Sir George; and Nelson ordered off to the West Indies.

Then was there, as you may suppose, hurrying and scurrying, and running and chasing, and despatches of Government couriers and semaphore telegraphs, and carrier pigeons and all the old world communications then in fashion. The key, thus obtained, disclosed the whole correspondence, which turned out to be a connected series of letters from the French Government smuggled into Jersey. The result history knows; the intended invasion was abandoned, and Napoleon went elsewhere.

Beaumont disappeared for that night and was never again heard of at the Admiralty. It transpired afterwards that an accomplice had warned him of the experts visits to the Admiralty, and his inquiries in Jersey. The lady who acted the sister, and who visited the Admiralty, partly to put the authorities off their guard, and probably also to interchange the key to the cipher, was a Parisian celebrity who both before and afterwards, was renowned for her daring political intrigue.

### THE SANDBAG FOR INFANTRY.

The recent improvements effected in arms of precision, have rendered it necessary to accustom the infantry soldier to the use of the spade and pick for the purpose of throwing up field works and entrenchments, and thereby to secure shelter, when required, from the rapid fire of the breechloader. Captain Harcourt, 102nd Fusiliers, has made the following suggestion:—"That a sandbag and trowel form part of the equipment of every infantry soldier. Entrenchments may be of two kinds, natural and artificial, moveable and immoveable; the sandbag being

easily carried and capable of being rapidly filled and still more rapidly emptied, comes under the head of an artificial and moveable entrenchment or means of cover and protection. Length of sandbag to be 20 inches, breadth 14 inches, with a strong tape sewn on at about four inches from its mouth wherewith to tie it firmly when filled. The bag when filled measures about 15 inches in length and 10 in breadth. The trowel to be shaped like an ordinary garden trowel, weight about 1lb. The men's havresacs might be so constructed as to form an additional sandbag in cases of emergency.

The following trials have been made with the sandbag at the rifle range, Lucknow. The bag was filled with earth and tied at the neck firmly, and to test its efficacy in resisting the penetration of an Enfield rifle bullet, it was fired at by a man lying down at a distance of fifty yards from it. The bullet struck the bag in the centre, but did not penetrate beyond about six inches; on opening the bag, the bullet was found flattened into the shape of a mushroom. The bag was placed on the ground with its mouth inwards and end towards the man who fired; by so placing it, greater resistance to the bullet is obtained, and a sufficiency of cover is afforded. To ascertain at what distance a man lying down behind the sandbag would be invisible to another in front of him, a sergeant proceeded down the range and found that at 100 yards the man was entirely concealed. He was equally hidden from a man on horseback at 150 yards. Two bags were then placed close together, and it was ascertained that at 400 yards they had the appearance of a small clod of earth, at 500 yards they were just distinguishable and no more, and at 600 yards they could not be seen at all. Lastly four men were paraded, each with a sandbag and trowel in addition to his rifle, to test the time they would take to get under cover. The ground on which this trial took place was extremely hard, with short stubbly grass growing on it. The men fell in, in two ranks, and although the drill was new to them, it was also the handling of the trowel in five minutes the bags were filled and placed, and they were under cover. The second time went through the drill, and took but three minutes to get under cover. With a little practice men could with ease entrench themselves in a couple of minutes or less, especially in a ploughed field, or where the earth was ordinarily soft. The bags when filled are naturally heavy, but not so heavy as to prevent their being easily carried backwards or forwards with ease, on the men's shoulders in a change of front. This suggestion comprises a moveable entrenchment which can be rapidly formed and be still more rapidly demolished and packed away, either in the men's havresacs or trowel pockets.

PROPOSED DRILL.—The front rank face about. The rear rank step back two paces. 2. Both ranks ground arms, the rear rank men placing their rifles as close as possible to those of the front rank. 3. Both ranks face about and stand clear of the rifles. 4. Both ranks take out sandbags and trowels and commence digging and filling. Each front rank man forming a trench 2 feet long and 1½ feet broad sloping downwards from him. 5. When the bags are filled the front rank place theirs end on just beyond the trench. The rear rank men hand theirs to the front rank, who place them to the right of their own. 6. The whole grasp their rifles and lie down, the rear rank on the right of the front rank men, and as close to them as possible. Attention.—Both ranks spring to their feet, the front rank men passing their rifles over to the rear rank. They first

empty the bags of the rear rank and hand them to them, then their own, after which they take their rifles and the whole stand at attention.

Some statistics concerning the State of Ohio have recently been published which tend to show that the decline noticeable in Vermont, New Hampshire, New Jersey, and many of the Eastern States, is not confined to them. The amount of wheat produced in Ohio has been regularly diminishing since 1860. In that year there were raised 23,640,000 bushels; while in 1868 the amount was only 18,480,750. There is also a diminution of about fifteen million bushels in the produce of Indian corn, and a proportionate decrease in butter, cheese, sorghum and maple sugar. In eight years the horned cattle have grown less by 400,000; and in the year 1869 there were some 1,500,000 sheep less than in 1868. The only item of production in which an increase is noted is that of apples. In the northern part of the State there was an increase in 1868 over 1867 of two millions of bushels of this fruit, to the growing of which increased attention is being paid. For this serious falling off in the productions of Ohio no explanation is attempted by the residents of the State. In fact, they seem to be at a loss for an explanation. When, however, we remember that the local taxes alone, independently of the taxation of the central government, amount to nearly \$23,000,000, we are perhaps not far from the secret. The truth is, protection is ruining the finest States in the Union.

ANOTHER SEARCH FOR LEICHAARDT.—The Melbourne *Ages* says:—"A few months since, some blacks in Western Australia told a story of the death in the wilds, of two white men and their guide, an aboriginal. Believing these might be remnants of Leichardt's party, Mr. John Forrest was sent out by the government of Western Australia to see if he could find any traces of them. Again has the enterprise been unsuccessful, and, as before, no foundation whatever could be found for the story. Indeed, the adventurous little band had a narrow escape from destruction themselves, the natives they met were savage and unapproachable. In their journey they camped on the shores of a dry salt lake, which extended beyond the line of vision, and is situated in twenty-eight degrees, fifty-eight minutes fifty seconds S., and one hundred and nineteen degrees thirty-nine minutes E. Thus the fate of Leichardt still remains a mystery, and we have now real cause to fear that it will never, in our day, be solved."

From Red River the chief items of news are that Messrs. Thibault and Smith are to hold a conference with the insurgent chiefs, at which the claims and wishes of the latter will probably be ascertained; and that the Sioux were preparing to take the war path it was supposed against the Americans, although they first desired to know whether the insurgents were inclined for annexation, as in that case they would feel inclined to dispose of them before they attack the Americans.—*Citizen*.

Many English farmers feed no hay to their work horses, but keep them in high working order with straw, roots and shorts. The equivalent of twelve tons of hay may be produced on one acre of roots. Farmers in this country will eventually bring vegetable into use as stock food, for roots are cheap, healthy, and nutritious.