

WHOSE SHALL BE THE RHINE.

POLITICAL ANSWERS TO AN EXCITING QUESTION.

From the *Pall Mall Gazette*.

At this moment there is a revived interest in Nicholas Becker's "German Rhine" and the reply to it by Alfred de Musset, and the following translation of them may be acceptable:

It never shall be France's,
The free, the German Rhine,
Tho' raven-like she glances
And croaks her foul design.

So long as calmly gliding
It wears its mantle green,
So long as oar dividing
Its mirrored wave is seen.

It never shall be France's,
The free, the German Rhine,
So long as youth enhances
His fervor with its wine.

So long as sentry-keeping,
The rocks its margin stand;
So long as spire are steeping
Their image in its flood.

It never shall be France's,
The free, the German Rhine,
So long as minstrel singeth
Its lover groups combine.

So long as angler bringing
Its lusty trout to shore,
So long as minstrel singeth
Its praise from door to door.

It never shall be France's,
The free, the German Rhine,
Until its broad expanse
Its last defenders shrive.

THE FRENCH REPLY.

Your German Rhine has been ours before!
It has served our wassail bowls to fill,
Can singling its praise from door to door
Erase the hoof-prints, legible still,
Of our cavalry charge that bathed its left bank in
your gore.

Your German Rhine has been ours before!
On its breast the wound yet gapeth wide,
While conquering Conde made, when he tore
Thro' its mantle of green to the further side:
Where once the sire has ridden, shall the son not
ride once more?

Your German Rhine has been ours before!
Of your German virtues what remains
When across its flood our legions pour
And the Empire overclouds your plains?
When all your men have fallen, have ye other
men in store?

Your German Rhine has been ours before!
If ye your annals would fain forget
Your daughters remember the days of yore,
And wish the Frenchman at long them yet,
For whom your vintage while they were always
blithe to pour.

If your German Rhine be yours once more,
Then wash your liveries in its tide;
But pitch your arrogance somewhat lower!
Can ye recall with generous pride
Your myriad raven beaks that drank the dying
Eagle's gore?

May your German Rhine flow evermore
In peace; and modestly may each spire
Be mirrored fair in its glassy floor!
But, oh! keep down your bacchanal fire
Which, else, may rouse to life again the victor
hearts of yore.

THE BATTLES OF 1812-15.

XXV.

During the whole of this contest the attention of the American Generals appears to have been concentrated on the Eastern and Western frontiers of Canada, and their anxiety to obtain a footing thereon made them overlook the important fact that the possession of Michilimackinac by the British virtually kept the whole of the North West under their power, and that no success on the frontiers of Canada would be permanent till that post was captured.

The rapidity with which disasters multiplied at length directed their attention to it, and as it was a matter of great importance

that their designs should be frustrated the narrative of an expedition fitted out for the reinforcement of the post is both amusing and instructive at a time when less than twice as many hours as that expedition consumed days would enable the voyageur in almost any weather to reach Michilimackinac from Nottawassaga bay.

On 23rd April, a force of 90 men under the command of Lieut.-Col. McDouall, with two or three six-pounder guns, a quantity of provisions and military stores, in 24 batteaux sailed from Nottawassaga Creek for Michilimackinac, and reached there with the loss of one batteau (but none of her crew or lading), on the 18th of May having been twenty-five days on the passage. As a detachment of American troops had seized on the Indian post of Prairie du Chein, situated near the confluence of the Fox river with the Mississippi, and Col. McDouall at once organized an expedition of 150 soldiers and 500 Indians, under Lieut.-Col. McKay, with a 3-pounder field piece, for the purpose of driving out the garrison; the result of the operations are told in the following despatch:

PRAIRIE DU CHEINE, FORT MCKAY, }
July 27th, 1814.

SIR:—I have the honor to communicate to you that I arrived here on the 17th inst., at 12 o'clock, my force amounting to 650 men; of which 150 were Michigan fencibles, Canadian Volunteers and officers of the Indian department, the remainder Indians. I found that the enemy had a small fort situated on a height immediately behind the village with two blockhouses perfectly safe from Indians, and that they had six pieces of cannon and 60 or 70 effective men, officers included. Then lying at anchor in the middle of the Mississippi, directly in front of the fort, there was a very large gun boat called Governor Clark, Gunboat No. 1, mounting 14 pieces of cannon, some 6 and 3-pounders, and a number of cohorts manned with 70 or 80 men with muskets and measuring 70 feet in the keel. This floating blockhouse is so constructed that she can be rowed in any direction, the men on board being perfectly safe from small arms while they can use their own to the greatest advantage.

At half-past 12 o'clock I sent Capt. Anderson with a flag of truce to invite them to surrender which they refused. My intention was not to have made an attack till next morning at daylight, but it being impossible to control the Indians, I ordered our gun to play upon the gunboat which she did with a surprising good effect, for in the course of three hours, the time the action lasted, she fired 86 rounds, two-thirds of which went into the Governor Clark. They kept up a constant fire upon us both from boat and fort; we were an hour between two fires having run our gun up within musket shot of the fort from where we beat the boat out of her station, she cut her cable and ran down the current and was sheltered under the island. We were obliged to desist, it being impossible with our little barges to attempt to board her, and our only gun in pursuit of her would have exposed our whole camp to the enemy; she therefore made her escape.

On the 19th finding there were only six rounds of round shot remaining, including three of the enemy's we had pick-

ed up, the day was employed in making lead bullets for the gun and throwing up two breastworks, one within 700 yards and the other within 450 yards of the fort. At six in the evening everything being prepared I marched to the first breastwork, from whence I intended to throw in the remaining six rounds. At the moment the first ball was about being put into the cannon, a white flag was put out at the fort and immediately an officer came down with a note and surrendered. It being too late I deferred making them deliver up their arms in form till morning, but immediately placed a strong guard in the fort and took possession of the artillery. From the time of our landing till they surrendered the Indians kept up a constant but perfectly useless fire upon the fort; the distance from which they fired was too great to do execution even had the enemy been exposed to view. I am happy to inform you that every man in the Michigan Fencibles, Canadian Volunteers and officers of the Indian department, behaved as well as I could possibly wish, and though in the middle of a hot fire not a man was even wounded, except three Indians, that is one Penaut, one Falesovic and one Sioux, all severely but not dangerously. One Lieutenant, 24th U.S. regt., one militia Captain, one militia Lieutenant, three sergeants, three corporals, two musicians, fifty three privates, one commissary and one interpreter have been made prisoners. One iron 6 pounder mounted on a garrison carriage, one iron 3-pounder on a field carriage, three swivels, 61 stand of arms, four sword, one field carriage for 6-pounder and a good deal of ammunition; 28 barrels of pork and 46 barrels of flour; these are the principal articles found in the fort when surrendered. I will now take the liberty to request your particular attention to Capt. Rollette and Anderson, the former for his activity in many instances but particularly during the action. The action having commenced unexpectedly, he ran down from the upper end of the village with his company through the heat of the fire to receive orders, and before and since in being instrumental in preserving the citizens from being quite ruined by pillaging Indians, and the latter for his unwearied attention in keeping everything in order during the route and his activity in following up the cannon during the action and assisting in transporting the ammunition. Lieut. Portier, of Capt. Anderson's company, Lieuts. Graham and Brissbos, of the Indian Department, Capt. Dean, of the Prairie du Chein militia, and Lieut. Powell of the Green Bay militia, all acted with courage and activity so becoming Canadian militia or Volunteers. The Interpreter also behaved well, but particularly M. St. Germaine, from the Sault Ste. Marie, and E. Rouville, Scoux interpreter, they absolutely prevented their Indians committing any error in the plundering way. Commissary Honore, who acted as lieutenant in Capt. Rollette's company, whose singular activity in serving and keeping an exact account of provisions surprised me and without whom we must unavoidably have lost much of the essential article. The Michigan Fencibles who manned the gun behaved with great courage, coolness and intrepidity. As to the Sergt. of the Artillery too much cannot be said for him, for the fate of the day and our success were to be attributed in a great measure to his courage and well managed firing. Since writing the above a few days have arrived from the rapids at the Fox river with two Canadians who bring the following information; on 21st inst. six American barges, three of which were armed, were coming up the river and encamped on the