

GIBRALTAR.

In the present aspect of Spanish affairs the following in relation to this fortress may not be uninteresting to our readers. The first extract we give is from Urquhart's *Pil-lars of Hercules*.

"There is no place of which it is more difficult to form an idea without seeing it than Gibraltar. One naturally expects to find a fortress closing the Mediterranean with its enormous guns and its celebrated Galleries facing the Straits, it is nothing of the kind.

"The Straits are at the narrowest part seven miles and a quarter wide, but that part is fifteen miles from Gibraltar, it is only when you have past the narrows that you see Gibraltar away to the left, Ceuta in like manner recedes to the right, the width being here twelve miles. The current runs in the centre, sweeping vessels along and instead of being exposed to inconvenience from either fortress, they would generally find it difficult to get within range of the guns. The Batteries and Galleries face Spain, and look landward, not seaward; whatever its value in other respects, it is quite a mistake to suppose that it commands the Straits, or has ever had a gun mounted for that purpose.

"Gibraltar is a tongue three miles long and one broad, running out into the sea, pointing to Africa, and joined to Spain on the Northern extremity by a low isthmus of sand, it presents an almost perpendicular face to the Spanish Coast.

"Gibraltar has neither dock nor harbor. The bay and anchorage are commanded by the Spanish forts St. Barbara and St. Philip. These are levelled at present, but they will arise on the occasion when we require protection—that is to say, a war with Spain. They were dismantled during the late war by the Spanish Government, lest the French would occupy them and destroy the English shipping. The Spanish Government, however, formally reserved its right to rebuild them. The question has been lately raised by our sinking one of their men-of-war in their own waters, while pursuing a smuggler. The guns of St. Barbara command the anchorage harbor—the shells from it and St. Philip, pass clean over the rock, lengthways and can be dropt into every creek where a shoulder of rock might shelter a vessel from the direct fire. During the Siege by France and Spain the port was of no use, unless superior at sea, we had to sink our ships to save them.

"In Gibraltar there is little trade except Contraband, the natural commerce having been systematically discouraged that the martial departments might not be troubled and with the view of rendering it a mere Military establishment. The fiscal regulations of Spain which sustain this traffic, would long since have fallen but for their retention by England. We therefore lose the legitimate trade of all Spain, for the

smuggling profits (which go to the Spaniards) at this Port."

The following is from the *Athenum*.

"The value of Gibraltar to England, above that of all other fortresses, arises from the peculiarities of its situation and its character, other great strongholds, such as Cronstadt, Comorn and Ehrenbreitstein, have their values, which can be expressed in money, in regiments, in war ships, according to the strength of each. But those great strongholds have no value beyond what can be so expressed, they are military stations purely, Cronstadt protects the approaches to St. Petersburg by sea, Comorn covers Vienna from the assault of an army ascending the Danube, from Silistria and Belgrade; Ehrenbreitstein defends the Middle Rhine against France. Each has its military functions, but when that function is discharged, there is an end of its utility. But the chief office of Gibraltar is political, look at it on the map. It rises between two continents. It separates the region of the Crescent from the Cross, making itself the umpire of the two powers, and chaining up the fanatical passions of each. The evening Gun, whose magnificent roll along the waters of the Straits is heard alike at Ceuta, at Abyla and Tarifa,—heard by the Reff Pirates in his lair, by the Cabrita smuggler in his xebec. The Rondo bandit behind his rock, and by the Tetuan Jew in his bazaar, announces to each and all, that on the Great Rock stands a power visible, audible, swift to punish and as swift to protect, which will have peace in these waters, and as far as may be along those shores. Were we away from Gibraltar, there would be rapine and piracy in those beautiful bays and river mouths. The fanaticism of Spain is as fresh as ever; the hatred of Morocco as fierce as when the last defenders of the Koran fled from the walls of Ujijar. The Audalusian burns to be at Fez, the expelled Moors keep the keys of their old palaces at Seville and Granada. While we are at Gibraltar our evening gun is enough to preserve tranquility, as a rule on either side. Vacate our post, and we make way for a French garrison, or restore the Straits to the anarchy of the middle ages, then again Gibraltar gives us political power in the Courts of Paris and Madrid. The Rock, is the key of both France and Spain; cuts each, as it were, into two portions, divides the Mediterranean from the Atlantic ports. While we hold the the Straits, the princes of those countries, are but half possessors of their own naval powers. Fancy what would be our situation if an impregnable fortress held by a stranger and a rival separated Chatham and Portsmouth from Plymouth and Pembroke, so that no ship could pass from one port to another without his leave, we cannot even illustrate the disadvantage of such a situation, for the world's surface does not show us such a Strait as Gibraltar, closed by such a fortress as the Rock.

RIFLE MATCHES.

CALEDON COMPANY, NO. 6. 36TH BATT.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This Company assembled at its Range, on Wednesday the 28ult., to shoot for a Silver Medal presented to the Company, by Dr. Riddall, on his promotion from being late Captain of this fine Corps to the Surgeoney of the Battalion.

Notwithstanding that the day was stormy and wet the turn out was good, every man eager to obtain the medal, which is a valuable one; Corporal Harrison was the winner, who retains the medal in his possession until shot for again as it must be won twice before becoming the property of a member of the Company. The following are a few of the highest scores made. 5 shots at each range.

	200 yds.	400 yds.	T'l.
Sergt. McClellan...	44344	03042	23
Qr. Sergt. Unger...	43434	23200	25
Corp. Cameron...	34334	03400	24
" Harrison...	44344	02342	30
Pvte. Barber...	04334	04300	21
" Carson...	33333	40222	25

At the conclusion of the Match, the Company adjourned to Meeks Hotel, and spent a pleasant evening in social intercourse, during which the medal was presented to Corporal Harrison by our worthy Surgeon, who seized the opportunity of urging strongly the necessity of obtaining a thorough knowledge of the use of the valuable weapon the Government entrusted to the Volunteers, which he hoped would be properly appreciated and cared for by the members of Number Six.

RIFLE ASSOCIATION MATCH.

On Tuesday fortnight the third annual shooting match of the Owen Sound Rifle Association took place on the volunteer target ground. The prize being a silver medal, which becomes the property of the best shot after winning it three times. Mr. Caton carried off the prize the first year, Mr. Price took it from him the second year, and again Mr. Price holds it, as will be seen from the score. There were but eight of the members present, and they divided off into two squads. A number of the members are away in different parts of the country, deer hunting, which accounts for the smallness of the number present. The indifferent scoring is accounted for from the fact that a strong southerly breeze prevailed all the morning, which materially interfered with the shooting.

	100 yds.	200 yds.	300 yds.	400 yds.	500 yds.	T'l.
G Price...	4444	4342	2230	4000	0000	40
J Caton...	4443	3243	2222	0000	0000	35
W Harrison...	3344	2042	0000	0000	0000	22
R Notter...	3344	2233	2304	0032	0000	38

Total..... 135

J McLean...	3434	4223	2220	0220	0000	35
J. Mills...	3444	2233	0002	0430	0003	27
E W Evans...	2334	3133	2020	0000	0000	29
H P Heming...	3432	3224	3000	0002	0000	28

Total..... 129

—Owen Sound Advertiser.