

at different seasons against, first, one and then another of our armies, and the possibility of repose for refitting and producing necessary supplies for carrying on resistance. Second, to hammer continuously against the armed force of the enemy and his resources until by more attrition, if in no other way, there should be nothing left to him but an equal submission with the loyal section of our common country to the constitution and laws of our land."—(History of the American War, Vol. III, P. 198.

Here is an admission that no idea whatever of strategy was entertained, and we are strongly of opinion that the justly celebrated *march to the sea* was undertaken without any perception of its principal object or that it would be productive of the astounding results accruing therefrom, and that it was merely intended to be a repetition in the rear of that *hammering* against the enemy and his resources which was going on with such fearful slaughter in front.

We republish in another column from the United States *Army and Navy Journal*, a letter from General GIBBON, U.S.A., to the President of "the National Rifle Association," on the method of making good marksmen, and we entirely agree with the gallant officer in every particular; it is undoubtedly the best article we have yet seen on the subject, because it deals with the actual facts which prevent the great mass of the rank and file of an army becoming sharp shooters, and takes precisely the same practical position we have always maintained against the fallacies of our modern system of minor tactics.

As General GIBBON is an officer who has seen much service in the late war, his views are eminently practical and adapted to secure a fair average of effective shots in each corps by careful training. His advocacy of the principle of collecting crack shots into a *sharp shooters* corps is the same as our own; only we think it might be tactically advantageous to make one company in each battalion *tirailleurs* or sharpshooters with a few exclusive privileges and a little better pay. Any officer who has ever commanded troops under fire will at once agree that to make a good soldier a man must possess steadiness and self control; both those latter qualities can be acquired under discipline, and are as necessary as accurate shooting, if not more so; for we hold without those qualities no amount of training will make a good marksman. It is to be feared that this fact is lost sight of altogether in those great Rifle Tournaments at which it is only necessary to shoot well to establish the character of a crack shot for all kinds of service. From Wimbledon we hear repeated complaints of the untidy and unsoldierly-like manner in which the contests are conducted, owing in a great measure to the idea obtaining chiefly amongst civilian amateurs that a well fitting uniform, with the necessary appointments

of a soldier, is a hindrance to the display of the action and intelligence of the perfect marksman; and this has led to a cry caught up by a portion of the press for a change of uniform in color and appointments sure to make the soldier a sloven. Military tailoring is a mania with some people, and if the variety of opinions on this subject were to be tabulated the unlucky musqueteer would be dressed in every color of the rainbow not to talk of that beautiful grey or clay-color suggestive of uncleanness and so very like the convict's distinguishing colors that it might be supposed they were recommending a suitable apparel for the force likely to be raised for home defence under the Army Reorganization Bill. Experience has proved, however, that the cleanest and best color is the national scarlet with white belts; and the records of all wars of modern days, that is since uniforms became characteristics of national armies, prove that the soldiers wearing this color were remarkable for personal cleanliness and consequently for a smaller number of sick and less loss in actual fight in proportion to their numbers than any other force.

Without going further than our neighbors of the United States at the close of their late war, we witnessed the march of a splendid brigade as far as physique and drill could make them so, but both officers and men looked as if they had been engaged in the chimney sweeping business for an indefinite period, and the passer by invariably kept a good luff to windward. This was not the fault of the men, but the villainous idea had got into the heads of those practical people that they would spare their soldiers the trouble of cleaning anything about their appointments or clothing, and, as a general rule, slovenliness, filth and indiscipline as well as want of cleanliness prevailed. On service no doubt a good deal of rough work will be encountered, but it is all the greater reason why troops should be made to acquire habits of cleanliness, but this will never be done with japanned belt plates and ornaments—black belts, smoke colored tunics and trowsers, or crush hats—and it is this style the civilian tailors wishes to introduce into the British army, keeping especially in mind that the aforesaid toggery is to be as loose and badly fitting as possible—in fact as near an approach to the traditional *purser's shirt on a handspike* as may be, while the very conditions under which the individual has to act as a soldier requires that he should not have an inch to spare in dress or equipments.

The faults developed by these great Rifle Tournaments are those incidental to amateur soldiering in which the restraints of discipline are sought to be relaxed that a positive duty may be pursued as an unrestricted pleasure.

To us the real object of all those meetings are most decidedly to train soldiers for the service of the State, and in doing so care

should be taken that every class in society was at one time or other represented on the field.

Our own national army should use the Dominion Rifle Association as a means whereby the ability of every company in its ranks should be tested, and under no circumstances should the competitors be allowed to appear at a second annual meeting till their turn by regular rotation came again.

The local associations throughout the country have been productive of infinite good, but the crucial test is to have the men contend on strange ground with strange competitors; nearly every man's capabilities as a marksman is known to his comrades in his own company, and each company in a battalion knows the others power, but it would no doubt contribute to efficiency if they were tested at the annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association in the way proposed.

General GIBBON's letter is well worthy attention, and will furnish matter for serious reflection in connection with the subject of efficiency in the use of the Rifle.

The people of England are certainly the most extraordinary in the world for patience and gullibility. The march of liberalism in that happy land, as represented by its press reminds us of BUTLER's description of the Puritan's idea of that plenary inspiration, that converted every cobbler or tailor into an accomplished preacher, as

"A liberal art that needs no pains"
"Of study, industry or brains."

And this very art, or something like it, is insinuated by *Broad Arrow* of 19th inst. as a necessary consequence of being a Whig Radical minister, in an article headed and commencing as follows:

SIR, GOSCHEN AMONG HIS PROFESSIONAL BROTHERS.

One touch of nature makes the whole world kin, and Mr. Goschen managed on Wednesday night, as the guest of the Naval Club, to express in his speech the touch of naval nature which compels us to class him as a professional brother."

This great seamen created by plenary inspiration, was two years ago a banker, and probably crossed the channel half a dozen times, but it is only necessary to take office under Mr. GLADSTONE and presto, the individual is a Cromwell Mirabeau, a thorough soldier, and an accomplished admiral. Some little time ago we were amused at Sir GARNET WOLSELEY's announcement, that while "any *old* woman could compete in ordinary civil pursuits it took a *man* to be a soldier," the pretensions of the supporters of men like MESSRS. GOSCHEN, and CARDWELL would induce us to believe that the gallant knight has enunciated a true axiom. In the meantime, what must be the state of the British fleet under the management of such men.

If there is in the world, a profession requiring the most intense study, continuous training, and the fostering and develop-