

TARGET EXCURSIONS IN NEW YORK.

With the advent of the balmy autumn the good people of this great metropolis and vicinity are destined to undergo a torture which the season of "falling leaves" usually bring to us, and is solely an institution peculiar to Gotham and its suburbs. We refer to the parade of hundreds of target companies, who perambulate the streets of New York, headed by tooting brass bands and are followed by an immense train of loafers, thieves, pickpockets and other disreputable characters, more favorably known as the "sidewalk committee." After the season of picnics these associations, bent on contending for prizes, consisting of pewter mugs, galvanized watches, tin ice pitchers and castors, meet in conclave and resolve to have a target excursion. Some mushroom politicians, anxious to obtain some local nomination, is waited upon and the honor to use his illustrious name for the company solicited. Seldom, if ever, such a distinction is declined. This is the first and most important point gained, for the child has its name. The corner grog shops and purloins of the ward are canvassed, and posters with flaming announcements, that the "McSwiney Guards," or "McMhurder Volunteers," will celebrate their annual excursion for target practice on a certain day. Drills, at first with broomsticks, then with muskets are held semi-weekly or nightly until the day of the parade. With the approach of the day numerous invites are sent to the friends of the patron of the company, who lends his name, and of course the usual prizes as above-mentioned, are returned in appreciation of the sublime compliment. Some rural hotel has been engaged to get up a rousing dinner, roast turkey and roast pigs being especially stipulated for, to head the bill of fare. The company arrives, target shooting progresses until each member has waisted three shots, which may or may not have penetrated the target, according to the amount of fusil oil consumed and the steadiness of the marksman. Dinner is finally announced, to which the company does ample justice, and between their ravenous feeding and filching "grub" for the outsiders, the larder is left in a state of depletion. Up to this point everything progresses peaceably, excepting a few scrimages among the outsiders. In order to digest the hearty dinner, however, the bar is extensively patronized, and the result of the too frequent imbibition soon becomes alarmingly apparent. If, perchance, another target company happen to be anywhere near the hotel, there is sure to be a fight, if not there is bound to be a row anyhow, if only for the fun of the thing, or the sake of keeping up the time honored custom.

No later than last Monday an affair of this kind occurred at East New York, when a company from this city held their annual target excursion. After dinner this select coterie made a savage attack on a neighboring hotel where another company was seated at dinner. A number of policemen on the spot to preserve order, were roughly handled. Only the prompt arrival of a squad of police, and Company C. of the Twenty-eighth regiment N. Y. S. N. G., who happened to be near the scene of inspection, and called upon by the police for assistance, tended to nip this incipient riot in the bud.

There is no way we could suggest to put an end to this rank nuisance of target excursions, by the enactment of law, as the constitution guarantees every one the right of carrying arms, if not coucealed, and as long as ambitious politicians and others, anxious to have their names painted on targets, will

give support to these bands of quasi soldiers just so long will this crying evil continue in vogue, much to the disgust of the honest community and the detriment of rural hotel keepers. — *Evening Telegram.*

THE AUSTRIAN ARMY.

A military correspondent at Vienna, writing on the 1st ult., says;

"The grand manoeuvres in the camp at Bruck which are to be followed by others at Vienna, Brunn, and Prague, have now terminated, and the Emperor himself was present to witness them during the last few days. Some interesting experiments were made on the occasion with the new Linne-man spade. This spade, which has a very short handle and a broad blade, is worn on the left side *en bandouliere*, by every third man. It was found very useful on soft ground; in the space of five minutes a whole company made with it a row of rifle mantlets which covered them completely. When the earth was hard, however, it was found necessary to use the short-handled pick-axe, worn by miners for this purpose. The infantry have rapidly made themselves acquainted with the new mode of fighting. They now, while on the march, extend themselves into a long line, instead of holding together in columns, as formerly, and when they have no cover they lie on the ground. The word of command, too, formerly clogged with much unnecessary detail, have been greatly simplified. As for the cavalry, they have been thoroughly drilled according to the Edelsheim system, and, on ground which does not admit of equestrian manoeuvres, are capable of doing good service as infantry having completely mastered all the details of infantry drill, the use of breech-loaders included. They also had a good deal of practice in crossing rivers on horseback with rifles *en croupe*, in doing which they have now acquired great proficiency. Another feature of the new system is that the Reserve, which formerly constituted two-fifths of the entire army, is much smaller than before. Semaphores were frequently used, and were found more serviceable than field telegraphs. As to the discipline of the troops, it was excellent, and the fears expressed by old military men as to the consequences of the abolition of corporal punishment in the army were in no degree realized. Even the 'one year's volunteers' behaved in a most exemplary manner, and great results are expected from the new institution. At Vienna several experiments have lately been made with the new explosive compound called 'dynamite,' with very good results. It appears that the explosive force of dydymite is three times as great as that of gunpowder, and in all probability gunpowder will no longer be used for such purposes in the Austrian army. Baron von Scholl, General of Engineers, has just returned from an official tour in Hungary, Galicia, and Bohemia, and is preparing a general plan for the strengthening of the defences of the monarchy. This has become necessary in consequence of the growing importance of railways, and the circumstance that hitherto each territory has been fortified for its own security, without reference to that of the empire generally. The new fortifications will consist of earthworks only, but they will be provided with more guns, and these of larger calibre, than has hitherto been the case."

It is stated that General Lebœuf, the new French minister of War, is restoring to all the regiments of cavalry the bands which Marshal Niel took away.

THE LOYALTY OF THE COLONIES.

The *Times* regards "the practice of despatching the junior members of the Royal Family on roving embassies, with no instructions except to cultivate loyalty and kindness throughout the last circle of the British dominions, as a happy discovery of the present reign. Its advantages are obvious, and the chance of failure of these missions ought not to be very numerous. All that is expected of such representatives of the Queen and British nation is that they should fairly represent the rank of life in which they have moved—that they should act, that is as the first of English gentlemen. No difficult diplomatic problems have to be solved by them, and if their lives appear to accord with their high fortunes, they have done all that is required of them. What ever corner of the globe they visit, the one desire of the whole population is to treat them so that they may carry away with them pleasant recollections, and their part is to suffer themselves to be amused." Our contemporary endeavours to appraise the outburst of enthusiasm with which Prince Arthur has been received in Nova Scotia. It issues certainly from no thankfulness at the recent conduct of the mother country to the province. It is the fruit rather of a general sympathy and the sense of common nationality, which is something at once nearer and more remote than any feeling which could be evoked by the Imperial colonial policy. It must not, therefore, be looked to as having any bearing or significance in relation to questions pending between the colony and the Imperial Government. The interests of the Royal visit seems to have absorbed for the moment all the energies available for anti-Canadian controversy; but that strife and the attendant anger against the Home government will doubtless revive with as much bitterness as ever as soon as the counter attraction is removed. We must guard ourselves however against the temptation to set down on this account the kindly feeling towards England as hypocritical and insincere. Nova Scotia means the affection for the mother country which its recent demonstrations imply, and it will not cease to mean it because hereafter it renews its quarrel with the view which the mother country choose to take of the relations between them. England should be willing to accept the present manifestation of friendliness for what it really signifies.

ACCIDENT AT THE BELGIAN MILITARY CAMP.—It appears that Aldershot is not the only camp where mistakes may be made, for we have an account of an accident at the Belgian camp of Beverloo, similar to that which occurred some weeks since at Aldershot. It seems that on Tuesday, the 14th instant, while the troops were exercising, two squadrons of cavalry each ignorant of the proximity of the other, owing to the peculiar configuration of the field which obstructed the view, met in full charge. The *mêlée* was fearful. Fourteen, including two officers, were hurt; one had his collar-bone fractured, and one soldier being thrown had his foot entangled in the stirrup and was dragged more than fifty yards along the ground. He was fearfully mangled. It is difficult, without knowing the field, to comprehend how such an accident could have occurred. On the same evening a young sergeant of the 2nd Regiment of the Line, aged seventeen, shot himself and died the next morning. No cause for the suicidal act, is stated.