

Interesting Trial of the 100-Ton Gun.

On Monday afternoon the 100-ton gun and the model emplacement in which it is mounted at the proof butts in the Government marshes adjoining the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, where the objects of experiment, and the novelty as well as the importance of the occasion created considerable interest, as was manifested by the large number of officers and other visitors present. It was explained that the four 100-ton guns purchased of Sir William Armstrong some two years since are to be mounted on the defences of Malta and Gibraltar, and that as it has been considered desirable to load them by hydraulic machinery, this experiment had been proposed in the hope of gaining some experience before proceeding extensively in permanent preparations. Elevated as the gun was, and pointed over the glacis of the parapet, it presented a most commanding aspect, and has probably never appeared to such advantage. More than 34 feet long, with the diameter at the breech of 6 feet 6 inches, tapering gradually off to 2 feet 6 inches at the muzzle, it had a more slender and less sturdy outline than that of the natural system of heavy ordnance, but its admirers praised it as the combination of strength and elegance, and claimed for it the advantages due to the saving of weight and met l. Size and weight appeared of no consideration at all when a lever was touched, and the bulky breach rose and fell as the muzzle was elevated or depressed with no more apparent effort than a 9-pounder requires at the hand of a gunner; and the admirable adjustment of the machinery when the whole mass swept grandly round to the opposite point of the compass was unanimously confessed. Then the order was given to load. A small elongated carriage or cradle stood on a miniature railway close at hand, and upon this were placed two cartridges and the shot. The charge was 425 lbs. of pebble powder, and it was made up into two cartridges for convenience of carriage; but a tube ran through both and just at the point of communication a small primer of small grain powder had been inserted for the purpose of igniting the charge in the centre. The projectile was a huge bolt 17 1/2 inches in diameter, and nearly 3 feet long, its weight being, with the gas check attached, 2,020 lbs., or nearly a ton. The cradle with its burden ran along the rails, and entered an iron turret about 12 feet in breadth. One side was an open fort, to which the muzzle of the gun on the outside descended. On a turn-table in the centre of the apartment the cradle revolved bringing the charge close up to the muzzle of the gun, when out from the other side rose the head of the rammer and drove cartridges and shot into the mouth, and rammed them well home. The rammer, which was a 6-inch piston 5 1/2 feet in length, is moved by hydraulic rams with a 4-foot stroke and multiplying gear, and it descends through a tube into the earth. The monster gun, as soon as it was loaded, was elevated clear of the parapet, and was trained about 15 degrees to the left, which brought it exactly opposite to one of the sand bags at the butts, the act of moving the gun at the same time automatically closing the iron door of the loading port, which is in like manner opened by the return motion. The gun is to be fired through the axial vent, and the electric wire is passed through an arrangement of copper discs which have been contrived with the long desired object of effectually closing the vent and saving the evil consequences which arise from the escape of powder gases. The spectators withdraw to a safe distance, and after an interval of suspense an appalling roar, which makes the earth vibrate, is heard and deadens the sense for a time, and the enormous gun is observed calmly sliding down from the recoil amid a cloud of smoke, dirt, and debris. The first anxiety was to examine the structure, and the inspection was perfectly satisfactory, for nothing whatever had suffered from the discharge, and the durability of concrete even for real fortifications had become a subject for consideration. In this work upwards of 3000 tons of concrete has been used, about half of which is below and half above the ground, the lower half being compounded of cement and Thames ballast, and the upper half of cement and furnace slag. The latter was prepared with great labour, owing to the difficulty of crushing the refuse metal, and it is believed that it would stand a fair examination as well as the famous Gozo coralline with which the Maltese works are constructed. The hydraulic lever at the Mediterranean ports will be furnished with an arrangement similar to that used in Monday's experiments an accumulation weight-

ed up to 67 tons, with a 16-inch ram and an 8-foot stroke. This can be raised by steam sapper, of traction engine, in one minute, or forty men can pump it up by hand in seven minutes. The one round fired on Monday, is but the first in a series of experiments of a similar character, and it will be some time before the gun leaves Woolwich for its final destination in one of the Mediterranean fortresses. — Times.

The Cabul Mint.

HOW AFGHAN MONEY IS MADE—ENGLISH RUPEES RECEIVED.

[Cabul Letter to the London Times.]

Let me now describe the process through which the English rupees at present pass to bring them out from the Cabul mint in the shape of Cabulee rupees. In one of the rude sheds which I have described as, running round the court-yard, are two rows of small, round clay hearths, elevated an inch or two above the floor, and depressed, like a plate, in the middle. A pile of rupees—generally 300 is added to the furnace. The load, in combination with the bone ashes, separates, as is well known, the alloy. This first process converts the rupees into a dull, unsightly mass of silver, free, or nearly so, from alloy. The pure silver thus extracted is then carried to another shed, carefully weighed, and an amount of English rupees equal to its weight added to it. Rupees and silver are then melted together in a clay crucible, and the melted mixture is then ladled by hand into molds, which give it the shape of flattened bars about twelve inches long. These bars are then taken to a third shed, to be annealed by hammering, and given the form of slender, round rods. The next process is that of drawing these rods through a plate of iron, perforated with round holes, to give them a uniform circumference. This is done by means of a rude hand-wheel, after which the rods are cut by hammer and chisel into the lengths requisite to form the future rupee, each of which lengths is carefully weighed in a pair of scales. Any that are too heavy are handed to a workman whose business it is to slice off a fragment with his chisel; any that, on the contrary, are too light are handed to another workman, who notches the little cylinder by a blow on his chisel, and inserts the required fragment into the notch. The cylinders are next carried to a fifth shed, and, after gently heating, are hammered into small, round disks, which have a yellowish-white colour. To remove this colour and give them brightness they are next plunged into a caldron of boiling water, in which they are boiled for some time along with apricot fruit and salt. This process imparts brightness to the dull disks of silver, and they are then ready for the last process they have to go through, that of stamping. This is, perhaps, the most interesting part of the operation. Two operators sit facing one another, half naked, on the ground, with a little iron anvil between them. Into the face of the anvil is inserted a steel stamp, destined to give the impression which the under side of the rupee will bear. One operator places the little silver disks with great quickness and accuracy upon the stamp, and the other, who is armed with a heavy hammer in his right hand, and a steel stamp bearing the inscription destined for the upper side of the rupee in his left, with one heavy, well-delivered blow, impresses the device on the soft lump of silver. Lastly, each rupee thus stamped is again weighed, and deficiencies in weight made up by the same rude process.

Settling in England.

(From the Parisian.)

It is announced that the ex-Empress Eugenie has just bought the Farborough Hill estate, in Hampshire, close to the borders of the county of Surrey, for £50,000. The estate was the property of the late Mr. Longman, the well-known publisher, and consists of about 257 acres, with a charmingly picturesque mansion, erected, by the late owner eighteen years ago. The ex-Empress will not go into possession of it until January, as Mrs. Longman, the widow, is very anxious to spend another Christmas there. A memorial chapel will be built to receive the bodies of the Emperor and the Prince Imperial. The lease of Camden Place expires in March next.

AN Oregon ranchman throw a lasso clumsily, and the noose fell around his own neck. Just then the horse unseated him, and, one end of the rope being fast to the saddle, he was choked to death.

You Have no Excuse.

Have you any excuse for suffering with Dyspepsia or Liver Complaint? Is there any reason why you should go on from day to day complaining with Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Habitual Costiveness, palpitation of the Heart, Heart burn, Water-brash, Gnawing and burning pains at the pit of the Stomach, Yellow Skin, Coated tongue, and disagreeable taste in the mouth, Coming up of food after eating, Low Spirits, &c. No! It is positively your own fault if you do. Go to your Druggist—and get a bottle of GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER for 75 cents your cure is certain, but if you doubt this, get a Sample Bottle for 10 cents and try it. Two doses will relieve you.

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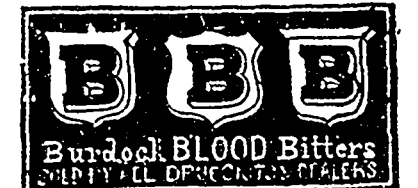
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