

of ten thousand men. I am informed that the passion of arms is beginning to manifest itself very much here, and the youths are not happy till they are enrolled in some of those bands. It is said that thousands of the boldest spirits in the Mexican campaign, who were ever in the van, and at the post of danger, rushing to the cannon's mouth with fiery valour, and storming, with irresistible intrepidity, the strongholds of the enemy, were those who had figured in such "Target Companies" as these.

Generally a target, profusely decorated with flowers, is carried before the company, borne on the stalwart shoulders of a herculean specimen of the African race, to be shot at for a prize, or for glory, and the "bubble reputation" alone. On its return from the excursion and practice, the target will display many an evidence of the unerring skill and markmanship of the young and gallant corps. I remarked before, that it is supposed that the love and desire of military distinction is increasing. In corroboration of this, I find it observed in one of their papers, that the American boy, after delightedly firing off his pistol or his miniature cannon, on "Independence Day," or other national anniversaries and festivals, in commemoration of particular events,