

could get out one privateer, we could start ten, and most of them ten times as powerful!

But these would be wicked suggestions if England were at all likely to be diverted from her self imposed course of humility by idle taunts. But there is no danger. Charity wanted not itself—is not puffed up—doth not behave itself unseemly.

Were there a shadow of truth in the exaggerated accusations of the Colonists, it would not be wonderful, if, in place of the loyal love and reverence with which they have ever hitherto regarded the land of the glorious Old Red Cross flag, they should turn from her with all the scorn and loathing with which a woman turns from her heart the idol to which she has blindly ascribed nobility, truth and manly courage, when she is rudely awakened to the certainty of its unworthiness.

But does any national being believe that the proverbial acumen of the British nation is at fault?

Ah no! Let us be right, ascribe all that may suggest to us a temporary doubt, not to blundering cowardly stupidity, but to the depth of the charity which thinketh no evil, is not easily provoked, and beareth all things in the righteous hope of the amendment of those with whom she has to deal.

Let us admire at a humble distance the loftiest type of virtue, and with a confidence the growth of years, rest in calm security that no virulence of denunciation will avail at this eleventh hour to turn our mother country aside from the path of rectitude.

There need exist no apprehension that, notwithstanding any little ebullition of temporary anger on the part of the press, Britain will ever be found wanting in the angelic quality of patience, even should the conduct of the United States be tenfold more exasperating than it has been so wantonly asserted to be.

Long may our glorious country continue to confide her destinies to the guidance of the saintly band of men who now control the helm of state, and should her pacific counsels ever reduce her in the eyes of the world to the status of a third rate power, let her console herself with the reflection that all earthly glory is vanity; and that, as we suppose, it is better for a nation (as for a man) that she should lose the whole world rather than her own soul!

RICE'S TROWEL-BAYONET.

A year ago the Chief of Ordnance directed the issue of five hundred trowel-bayonets, of the Rice model, in pursuance of the recommendation of the St. Louis Board, to the Department of the Missouri, for the purpose of experiment and report. In October, Major-General Pope, acknowledging their receipt, made the following statement of their usefulness:

I have seen the bayonets tested so that in fifteen minutes two companies of infantry so covered themselves that they could not be seen at a distance of fifty feet in front of an

embankment which had been thrown up by them with the bayonet, and which could not be penetrated by a musket ball fired at a distance of ten feet.

The new bayonets were issued to different posts in General Pope's department, garrisoned by seventeen companies of the Third and Fifth Infantry. The reports, which we have had in our possession for a considerable time, are decidedly favorable to the new proposed equipment. From the report of Colonel Miles, of the Fifth Infantry, we quote:

1. As a bayonet, I believe it to be as formidable a weapon as the one now in use and that as severe a wound can be inflicted with it; also its moral effect in a charge would be as great as that of the old one. The difference in weight and length between the two, I think, is too slight to enter as an element into the question of accepting or rejecting the trowel bayonet.

2. As a trowel, it has been severely tested under my immediate supervision. A company in single rank, working in a soil of medium hardness, threw up in the space of ten minutes a work along its entire front of sufficient height and thickness to protect a line of battle. The work was tested and found to be bullet proof against the Springfield, breech loader, at a distance of twenty paces, the balls would not penetrate half through the work.

"From an experience of four year's service in the field during the recent war, I am fully satisfied that an army, or a body of troops equipped with this bayonet, would, in the ordinary emergencies of a protracted campaign, have so great an advantage over an equal body equipped with the old bayonet as to compel its adoption at once. It is only in actual field service, in the presence of an enterprising enemy that an instrument of this kind could be fully appreciated. In an attack, its value would be great in enabling the assaulting party to hold the position gained, and in an almost incredibly short time make a position defensible. In a retreat, a small party could occupy positions, and with this bayonet, in a few minutes, make the lines defensible against a much larger force."

"For a line of battle or skirmish line, I am satisfied this weapon is a great improvement over the old one, and I have no hesitation in recommending that it be adopted in our service."

Lieutenant Colonel Brooke, of the Third Infantry, in all respects accords with the foregoing opinion. Major Lyman, of the Fifth Infantry, says:

"In tilled soil, or ordinary arable land, I find that a trench or pit may be dug by a rank of men in five minutes, having a relief of two feet, with a parapet of two feet in thickness at top, and natural slope, and defending the person or the men lying stretched or stooping, from musketry fire, and a double-rank in the same time would enlarge the trench to affording corresponding cover."

We have the same expression from the two Captains Snyder, of the Third and Fifth, commanding respectively at Forts Larned and Harker, Kansas; from Captain Bennet, at Fort Wallace; Lieut Logan, at Fort Leavenworth, and indeed from nearly every command to which the Rice bayonet was issued. Of course improvements are suggested; for when was ever an arm or a tool put into the hands of an American soldier that he did not make an amendment forthwith? The general suggestion is that the socket, which forms the handle of the tool, should be lengthened so as to extend beyond the edge of the hand and prevent the blistering which is occasioned by the original model.

The bayonet was illustrated and described in the *Journal* in the early part of 1871, and a reference to the cuts then used will show the obvious advantage of this easily wrought change.

The trowel bayonet has been received with favor in England also. The *Army and Navy Gazette* says in a recent notice of it:

"We have received further reports from the United States infantry on Rice's trowel-bayonet which are very favorable generally. What is in name? A charge of trowels does not sound very well, but charge of bayonets would not be of much use against a line of infantry well covered with a trench, especially if the trowels that made it could be used as bayonets behind it. There really seems to be something in this new Yankee notion."

In June, 1870, Colonel Gerald Graham, of the Royal Engineers, lecturing before the United Service Institution upon "Shelter Trenches or Temporary Cover for Troops in Position," considered the various propositions to furnish the Army with entrenching tools, and incidentally favoured the American idea of combining the uses of tool and bayonet in one, suggesting that "each brigade should have a detachment of the Royal Engineer Train who should carry the light shelter trench tools for the infantry (one to every three men of the brigade) in addition to the ordinary engineer field equipment." The tools to be carried in a wagon, and, on approaching the enemy, to be issued as required.—*United States Army and Navy Journal*.

A FORMIDABLE ENGINE OF WAR.—The torpedo boat built at Boston promises to be a very formidable engine of war. It will be 170 feet long, 35 feet broad, and 15 feet deep, and draw about 12 feet of water. It will be of 350 tons burden, with two powerful propelling engines and two propeller screws. The prow of the boat is to be made sharp, and will carry a steel ram 6 feet under water. Above the ram there will be an aperture through which will pass a long composition spar, on the end of which will be a torpedo of the most approved pattern. The boat will be plated on the side with iron six inches in thickness, while the decks are to be protected by steel plating one inch in thickness. The estimated cost of the vessel is about \$300,000, to which may be added about fifty per cent. for extras and items not counted in the estimates. Such a vessel might perhaps be useful in the event of war but even then its utility would be very doubtful. It is designed to operate against blockading fleets, and as blockades are obsolete, we doubt very much if it will ever prove more than a costly and interesting ornament to our now very harmless and inoffensive naval armament.

The Ready-money-System—Dun, or be duned.

Both watermen and Indians feather their skulls.

You may always recognize a champagne maker by his fizz.

A man may be ashamed of the fashion of his nose, although he follows it.

Tobacco is called by some one who does not smoke, the filth of the mouth and the fog of the mind.

Strongly recommended, no matter how well paid a dentist is, he always looks down in the mouth.

Market men are merciful to poultry. After the chickens are cleanly picked they generally retail them.