

Our Illustrations.

ARTILLERY PRACTICE AT QUEBEC.

Having already more than once treated of the organization and the manœuvres of the "B" Battery, it will not be necessary to enter into any detailed description of our illustrations, which are sufficiently explained by the titles. In this connection however, the following tables—giving the scores made by the five best marksmen of the English Artillery Volunteers in August, 1871, and the five highest scores just made by the "B" Battery under the same conditions—will be found to possess great interest. The following were the conditions in either case:—Practice carried on with 32-pounders at 1,250 and 1,500 yards—five shots per man, three at 1,250 and two at 1,500 yards—time allowed, eight minutes—aiming alternately at each target.

SHOEBURNESS.

PRIZES.	NAMES.	Gun.	Shots.					Total Points.	Time.	M. S.	Pts. deducted.	Grand Total.
			1	2	3	4	5					
1st prize.	6th Cinque Ports Vol. Art.	32	5	7	11	6	11	40	7.25			40
2nd do.	10th Kent	32	5	7	11	6	11	37	5.42			37
3rd do.	10th "	32	5	7	11	6	11	33	5.30			33
4th do.	4th East York	32	5	7	11	6	11	26	6.46			26
5th do.	1st West York	32	5	7	11	6	11	25	7.20			25
			185					32.45				185

"B" BATTERY SCHOOL OF GUNNERY.

PRIZES.	NAMES.	Gun.	Shots.					Total Points.	Time.	M. S.	Pts. deducted.	Grand Total.
			1	2	3	4	5					
1st prize.	Serjt. Stewart, Q. G. A.	32	8	7	11	6	6	38	8.06		1	37
2nd do.	Gunner Shiller, La Beauce Field Battery	32	6	7	6	7	11	36	7.16			36
3rd do.	Mr. Gautier, (Fred.), (Govt. armed corps, "La Canadienne")	32	5	7	4	11	6	33	7.40			33
4th do.	Gunner Canby, Q. G. A.	32	5	5	7	7	3	31	6.50			31
5th do.	" Forbes.	32	6	7	7	5	6	31	7.54			31
			169					37.44		1		168

The English score shows the points gained by the five best shots out of 165 competitors who were themselves the selected gunner marksmen out of the artillery volunteers of all England (30,000 strong). The 1st Prize National Association £50, was won with a score of 40 points. Against this we have to compare the score made by the best five marksmen out of only 40 men selected to fire from the school of gunnery at Quebec, comprising all told, 165 of all ranks. The competitors of Shoeburness had the advantage of perfect accuracy of measured range, stability of platforms and excellence of material of all kinds. The Canadian gunners had to contend with difficulties of all sorts, among which may be mentioned, platforms and targets placed on the thawing snow on the ice of a river rising and falling unequally with the tide; the Battery being placed on ice which rose and fell, being on a shoal, only about 3 feet, while the targets rose and fell from 12 to 18 feet; added to this must be taken into consideration the rottenness of the old gun carriages and baulks of Alderson's platforms, both of which constantly gave way during practice. The effect of the glare on the snow, the ice collecting on the platforms themselves, and the strong north winds and snow-storms having at times interfered with the practice, and last, though not least, the disadvantage of using old powder that necessitated an extra degree of elevation and consequently greater curve of trajectory.

Nevertheless the average score of "B" Battery, C. A., 19.8, is higher than the English average up to 1870, which runs:

1865.....	17.3 Points.
1866.....	15.2 "
1867.....	18.5 "
1868.....	17.2 "
1869.....	17.2 "
1870.....	16.4 "
1871.....	20.1 "
"B" Batry, C. A., 1873.....	19.8 "

It is not possible to compare the Canadian score with any average figure of merit for the Royal Artillery, for it is one of the "queer things of the science" that the Royal Artillery is the only corps who have no system for selecting marksmen, no competitive trials or prizes for skill with their magnificent weapons. A committee of artillery officers drew up a system which has not been put in force, though recommended three years ago.

The practice on the ice illustrated on the first page of this issue took place on Thursday and Friday, the 27th and 28th March, between the different detachments of Field Batteries, viz.: Quebec, Granby, and La Beauce. Practice was carried on with 2-pounder smooth bore field guns on sleighs at 1250 yards range on the St. Charles River—five rounds each man. The Quebec Field Battery made the straightest shooting, but lost points for time; eight minutes only being allowed for each five rounds; one point being deducted for every twenty seconds or portion of twenty seconds over that time. Consequently the Granby Battery won the competition by one point against the La Beauce Field Battery.

THE "ATLANTIC" DISASTER.

The reading public by this time have been well supplied with news from the ill-fated steamship "Atlantic." A great many facts and a vast amount of fiction have been served up both typographically and pictorially, and the theme will not be worn out for some time. The sketches in this week's issue are from our special artist, who has carefully prepared them, and may be considered accurate. The bow, with about sixty

feet of the forward part of the ship, is broken sharp off, and lies close to the shore, and at a distance of nearly fifty feet from the rest of the vessel. The bow and stern now point in the same direction. By some means one or the other has changed position since she first struck. The ship now acts like a breakwater to the small bay in which she lies, occupying nearly the whole of it. The divers and draggers are busy looking with an eager, professional eye to what is coming to the surface in the shape of salvage. Several respectable looking men are watching likewise from the side of the vessel with a different object. Beneath those iron walls lie the mortal remains of those whose memories are dear to them, and occasionally there is something floated upwards that they claim. There are many sad and anxious countenances among that quiet knot of strangers. One of them lately repaired to a certain port-hole indicated by the steward as the one which communicated with the state-room which two young lady friends occupied during the voyage. While anxiously inspecting the spot a lady's hand came to the surface, but before he had time to grasp it she wash of the vessel inside, with the floating debris, carried the body away. Incidents of a sad character occur every day, both as regards the loss of life and property. The crew of the schooner in which our correspondent went to the scene of the catastrophe were using pieces of the beautiful teak wood polished saloon doors for fuel.

Capt. Williams is a stout-built Englishman, of about 45 years of age, who has followed the sea for many years. He was for a long time captain in the Guion Line. For upwards of a year he has been in the White Star service, first as chief officer of the "Celtic," and latterly, for two voyages, as captain of the "Atlantic." He met with an accident a short time ago which disabled him to a certain extent, and recently he has been compelled to use a stick and abstain from great exertion. Notwithstanding this, however, he so conducted himself at the trying time as to win the highest commendations from the passengers.

John Hindley, a boy of eight years of age, was the only survivor of the hundreds of women and children who embarked on the "Atlantic." He is a native of Ashton, Lancashire, and left England, with his father, mother, and an elder brother, for New York, at the invitation of two of his married sisters who had settled there. At the time the ship struck the little fellow was asleep in his berth; he was awakened by the general stampede which followed, stumbled out of bed and joined the crowd. The greater portion passed him; but he saw six men crowding into a top berth in the upper steerage. He followed them. One of the men broke through a window and got out, and the boy did the same, one kind-hearted individual pushing him through before he had made the egress himself. Once outside, he held on by the ropes until himself and his companions were rescued by the life-boat. What became of his parents and brother he did not know, but it is certain that they were lost. The little fellow was an object of great interest, and at almost every corner he was stopped, questioned, and received assistance in the shape of donations from those who heard his heart-rending story, and who sympathized with the little waif. He has since been sent to his destination via Portland.

THE OLD MILITARY HOSPITAL, QUEBEC.

This is the building which, it will be remembered, has been used for the transaction of the legal business of the district since the destruction by fire of the old Court House on the 2nd of February last. It has been found extremely commodious, and has given every satisfaction to the members of the Bench and of the Bar, and to the public in general. The rear door is the private entrance for the Judges, the Bar, and the officers of the Court House. In this part of the building are the Prothonotaries' Offices, the Stamp Office, the Office of the Circuit Court, the Judges' Chambers, Enquête Room, etc., etc. At the far end of the building are the Sheriffs' Offices and Jury Rooms, the Court Room, intended for the holding of the Queen's Bench (Criminal Side), the Superior and Circuit Courts and the Advocates' Room. One of the rooms on the third flat is used by the Committee employed in investigating into the cause of the fire at the old Court House, and preparing a bill to be submitted to the Legislature for remedying, in so far as possible, the losses sustained by suitors consequent upon the destruction of documents and records by fire. The public entrance gives access to this portion of the building. The Court of Appeals sits in the building close at hand—at one time the Officers' Mess-Room. The Police Court and the offices of the Clerk of the Peace face the Court of Appeals. The members of the Quebec Bar express themselves well satisfied with the arrangements made for their reception, and fully appreciate the energy displayed by the Board of Works in transforming the old hospital into a Court House. The highest praise is given to the Assistant Commissioner, who has been indefatigable in pushing on the work, so that as little loss of time as possible shall be suffered by the public. Already new vaults are nearly ready, and in a short time the work of transformation will be completed.

RENEWAL OF THE LEASE REFUSED.

An Irish scene this, of course, and by an artist well known as a skilful delineator of Irishmen and Irish manners. The scene lies in the office or "business-room" of an estate-agent who is visited by a frieze-coated tenant occupying, perhaps, some eight or ten, or more, acres of land, of which the lease is expired. The man is decent-looking enough, and probably has done his best to turn his holding to good account; he desires to have his lease renewed, but is met by a refusal; it is evident from the stern and unyielding countenance of the agent that no argument, nor appeal to pity, nor threats—if such were resorted to—would move him from his determination: there is something vastly expressive of inflexibility in that hard face, with its compressed lips and contracted eyebrows, and even in the clasped hands with the upturned thumbs: the man is a study of an inexorable nature. It is just possible, however, that, in the interests of his employer, he is only performing his duty, though it seems to be much in accordance with his own feelings. The applicant has received his answer, but is unwilling to take it, and stands by the agent's table hoping, but vainly, for a reversal of the decision. His looks are downcast, and certainly move the spectator in his favour: who knows but that he may leave the room with thoughts and feelings widely different from those with which he entered it? The interview is graphically portrayed throughout, even to the agent's clerk, who, pen in mouth, is rummaging a box of documents—leases, agreements, and deeds—indicative of territorial possessions.

[Written for the Canadian Illustrated News.]

THE LORE OF THE CALENDAR.

NO. V.—ST. GEORGE'S DAY.

TRADITION has in no instance so clearly evinced her faithfulness, as in the transmitting of vulgar rites and popular opinions. Of these many are lost in antiquity; many have indeed travelled down to us through a long succession of years, and the greatest part of them will be of perpetual observation: for the generality of men look back with superstitious veneration on the ages of their forefathers: and authorities grey with time, seldom fail of commanding those filial honours, claimed even by the appearance of old age.

The Christian Church has borrowed many of her rites, notions, and ceremonies, in the most luxurious abundance from ancient and heathen Rome. Our holiday games and sports have been countenanced by the best and wisest of statesmen, and even though they have been sometimes prostituted to the purposes of riot and excess, yet were we to reprobate everything that has been thus abused, religion itself could not be reclaimed; perhaps we should be able to keep nothing. The working people, confined by daily labour, require intervals of relaxation; we consider it of great political ability to encourage innocent sports and games and the observance of stated holidays among them. St. Patrick's Day, so carefully observed by all good Irishmen, may be reckoned as the last day of winter. St. George's Day heralds in the spring, and sets our glorious river free, and makes us realize the picture so strikingly conveyed in Milton's lines:

"The winds, the waves, and all the funny drove,
Beneath the moon in mazy morris move."

St. George and Merrie England—What hallowed associations are present with Englishmen on St. George's Day, specially with those exiled from home. Many of the old customs and rites connected with this day still exist in England. Many of them were conducted with great devotion, according to Robert Herrick. Charles Knight, a genial writer and a lover of all our good old English customs and festivals, speaking of them says:—"Devotion lived amongst old ceremonials derived from a long antiquity; it waited upon the seasons; it hallowed the seed-time and the harvest and made the frosts cheerful. And thus it grew into Religion. The feeling became a principle." He laments that puritanism and formalism, which requires men to be devout without imagination; to have faith, rejecting tradition and authority—and all the genial impulses of love and reverence associated with the visible world,—the practical poetry of life, which is akin to faith.

The story of Saint George and the delivery of the Princess of Silene from the power of the dragon was, on the twenty-third of April, went to be dramatized in some country towns and places, upon which occasion all the dignitaries of the town being duly assembled, Saint George and the Dragon marched along amidst the ringing of bells and the firing of guns and the shout of the patriotic population of "Saint George for England." These joy-inspiring days, numerous as the calendar shows them to have been, were kept up with the greatest zeal all over the country, and with a grateful, pious, sober, heart-stirring, soul-elevating hilarity!

Romance casts its halo round St. George, transforming the symbolical dragon into a real monster slain in Libya to save a beautiful maiden from a dreadful death. Butler, the historian of the Romish calendar, insists that England's patron Saint was born of noble Christian parents; that he entered the army, and rose to a high degree in its ranks, until the persecution of his co-religionists by Diocletian compelled him to throw up his commission, and upbraid the emperor for his cruelty; by which bold conduct he lost his head and won his sainthood. Whatever the real character of St. George might have been, whether he fought for Godfrey of Bouillon at the battle of Antioch, or appeared to Count de Lion before Acre as the precursor of victory, there is one thing certain he became the chosen patron of arms and chivalry. In the reign of Henry V., of England, a council held at London decreed, at the instance of the King himself, that henceforth the feast of St. George should be observed, and for many years the festival was kept with great splendour at Windsor.

In olden times the standard of St. George was borne before our English kings in battle, and his name was the rallying cry of English warriors. According to Shakespeare, Henry V. led the attack on Harfleur to the battle cry of "God for Harry! England! and St. George!" and God and St. George was Talbot's slogan on the fatal field of Patry. The fiery Richard III. invokes the same saint, and his rival can think of no better name to excite the ardour of his adherents:—

Advance our standards, set upon our foes
Our ancient worst of courage, for St. George,
Inspire us with the spirit of very dragons.

The 23rd of April is a day that ought, for another circumstance, to be dear to every Englishman; it is the birth-day of Shakespeare, that man of universal genius who seems to have the power ascribed to a wonderful Arabian devise of diving into the bodies of men, and in that way became familiar with the thoughts and secrets of their hearts. In conclusion, long may our readers live to enjoy the protection of the beloved St. George's ensign, and long live England's Queen!

Mrs. Grote has, it is announced, completed the memoir of her late husband.

A site for the proposed monument to Beethoven, at Vienna, has been granted by the Emperor.

Mr. John Forster is in bad health, and the third volume of his "Life of Charles Dickens" is likely to be delayed for some time.

Messrs. Longmans have now nearly ready a new work by Lord Dunsany, entitled "Gaul or Teuton? Considerations as to our Allies of the Future."

At the sale of the books of M. Ruggieri, the pyrotechnist, at the Hôtel des Ventes, Paris, the "Cérémonial du Couronnement de Charles-Quint," a unique copy, was knocked down at £1,400.

Miss Braddon, it is said, gets £2,000 for the new novel which she is said to write for the new weekly, the *Home Journal*—viz., £500 from the new paper, £400 from America, and £1,000 for the home reprint.

The late Sir F. Madden has attached a hard condition to his bequest of books and papers to the Bodleian Library. He required that within a week of his decease they should be sent in a box to the library with a stipulation, on the testator's behalf, that the box should not be opened till the 1st day of January, 1920.