The sky being hazy, this carried them through a thick cloud, which quite hid the earth from sight, and gave the voyagers a splendid view of the sun's effect upon the upper surface of the clouds, After enjoying this for a while, they opened the valve and dropped down through the clouds, alighting safely at seven o'clock on the farm of Mr. Morris, at Cray's Hill, nine miles from Romford, and four from Pitsea Station, on the Tilbury and Southend Line.

Mr. Bowdler has written a letter to the following effect:—

"The balloon not rising in the first experiment was in consequence of the grapnel dragging on the ground. When properly balanced it rose each time the fan worked It was not proposed to work the fan 800 revolutions per minute; only fourteen to one of the winch, or about 500 revolutions per minute, which it did.

"No part of the apparatus broke down in this experiment; it went up with the balloon quite perfect. There was no unexpected quality developed. The balloon was turned purposely to the right and then to the left by the small disc or rudder (which has not a superficial surface of one square yard) by the force of air produced by the propelling fan, according as the rudder was turned, The force of the propelling fan was, therefore, very evident.

'The machine is purposely adapted for a balloon of 12,000 feet of hydrogen gas. It was made twelve months ago for a small balloon of Mr. Coxwell's. The latter was, however, found too small to carry up the necessary weight, and the trial was deferred. On the Government consenting to supply the gas, the only balloon available was the City of York, of 60,000. I expressed previously to the trial that I expected but slight results with so large a balloon.

"Major Beaumont said he could make a fan, about eight feet in diameter, to be worked by four or six men in the car, that would propel the balloon eight miles an hour. If so, my principal is correct."

The Military Balloon Committee is at present directing its attention more especially to the best method of inflating a balloon on the field of battle—an operation which is attended with considerable difficulty It has been decided that war balloons may be employed as a valuable adjunct to an army in the field. At a height of 200 yards, the entire landscape over a radius of about forty miles can be seen on a clear day, and the general in command would, therefore, find a balloon of great service to do the work of scouts, and to ascertain the position and movements of the enemy, on the other side of a hill, wood, or town. During an action captive balloons may be employed in like manner to observe and report by signal or otherwise the manœuvres of the enemy, and the character of the country for many miles in advance can be fairly ascertained.

THE DEVASTATION TURRET SHIP.

A writer in *Chambers' Journal* gives an interesting sketch of a visit to the Devastation. While investigating the upper part of the vessel he suddenly found the side spin round with enormous speed. An officer turned a small wheel with his finger and thumb, and the massive turret, coated with enormous plates of iron, the two thirty-five ton guns and their carriages, and some twenty men, were sent round as easily as a boy can twist a teetotum. The boat the visitor arrived in was hoisted by steam, the turrets were turned by steam, the guns were raised or lowered by steam, the ship is steered and ventilated by steam, the cable is worked by steam, and the vessel, of course, is moved by steam, The writer was on board during firing exercise at a target. "A terrific shock to our whole system occurs, a deafening roar, and then whirr r r, a shot, looking like a sea bird, speeds just over the target, just touches the sea, sends up a jet of spray a hundred feet in the air, grander-looking than the largest fountain at Sydenham, and whiter than driven snow. On rushes the shot, its wicked, vicious noise distinctly audible, and again it strikes the sea, after a bound of about two thousand yards. Another column of water rises in the air, and slowly descends in spray. A third fountain arises as the shot thus 'ducks and drakes' it along the sea; and then the iron missile, that weighs a third of a ton, having lost its velocity, sinks beneath the surface, and is no more seen."

After several rounds had been discharged, a new method of firing was tried—namely, firing both guns in a turret by electricity. The captain or officer intimates that there will be electric firing of one, two, or all the guns; these guns are loaded and their vents connected electrically with the wires in the iron building on deck. Either by steering, or by the the movements of the turrets, the guns are kept trained on the target. The officer who is to fire stands watching the distant horizon, and when all is ready, and all clear he presses down a small connector, and the electric current immediately ignites the tube, and discharges the gun or guns. We had already heard two guns fired quickly, one after the other, we were now to experience the result of two guns being fired simultaneously. We stood anxiously watching the target, and in an instant there was the same concussion of the deck, the same 'jumpy' feeling all over us, and away went the two shot, racing with each other, striking the water, and sending up their splendid fountains, and one shot curving round to the right, the other to the left." The four monster guns were afterwards discharged at the same instant. The visitor noted that the Devastation, while sailing, rolled most palpably, although there was very little sea on. Still she is managed very more easily; she is turned in a circle of not more than two hundred and fifty yards in diameter, and obeys her helm like the puniest yacht. The vessel requires seventy stokers, and uses about twenty four tons of coal per day for a quiet day's work. If working up to full power all day, she consumes one hundred and fifty tons of coal, and she can work up to five thousand five hundred horse power.

QU'APPELLE ESCORT.

The detachment of troops from the garrison at Fort Garry which were detailed for service at the Qu'Appelle Treaty, under the command of Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, D. A. G., arrived here on Sunday last, after a march of three hundred and fifty miles, which was made in sixteen days and a half.

Just before the force reached the new barracks the notes of the band warned their comrades in quarters of the near approach of the force. when every one not on duty turned out to welcome them which was done by such cheers as only British soldiers know how to give upon such occasions. As the men marched into the barrack square their appearance denoted that they had been on service, every one being well bronzed by exposure to the sun and the whole force marching with that steady stept that tells on a long march. The force was halted on the parade ground of the barracks when they were addressed by Lt.-Col. Osborne Smith, who compliment them on on their good conduct and the manner in which they had performed so lengthy a march, that it spoke well for them for the future when he could say that no man had been in rear of the rear guard, and that no crimes against military discipline had been committed or anything that could demand the slightest punishment. All these showed that Canada might well be proud of the soldiers composing her army.

The men were then dismissed to their quarters where they were again welcomed by their brethern in arms, who had prepared for them a good and substantial dinner at which those who had been compelled to stay at home acted the parts of hosts making the bronzed lads feel that they were really at home, were pleasant smiles and genial companionship awaited all who had done their duty so well.

The average rate of marching from Qu'Appelle is somewhat over twenty miles per day. For steady and continuous marching we doubt if this can be beaten.

All the force are in excellent health and af full of spirits as a long course of physical exercise under a clear atmosphere could make them.—*Manitoba Gazette.*

In reference to the camp of instruction which the French Government proposes to create in the immediate neighborhood of Compiegne, it is not uninteresting to note that the ground selected by the present Minister of War has already been utilised for the same purpose. Nearly 200 years ago, Louis XIV., wishing to give the young Duc De Bourgogne some insight into military matters, gave orders for the execution of a series of manœuvres at Compiegne and 50,000 men were collected there upon the command of the Marshal Duc De Boufflers. The King, accompanied by King James II., of England, and a very numerous retinue, paid a visit to the "Camp of Coudun," as it was termed, and contemporary chroniclers relate that he was received with magnificent hospitality by the Marshal De Boufflers. Louis XIV., after reviewing the troops, dined with the Marshal, and found the fare so good that he declared "he had never eaten so much before;" while the Marshal himself, if we may trust some couplets composed on the occasion by the young Duc De Bourgogne, had quite as much wine as was good for him. It cannot be a matter for surprise, if with such a reputation for hospitality, the Commander-in-Chief received the visits of many military men from all parts of Europe, and it is perhaps excusable under the circumstances, if the troops did not get through much hard work. Another camp of instruction was formed near Compiegne in 1847, when some 15,000 troops were placed under the command of the Duc De Nemours. Imitating the example of his royal predecessor, Louis Phillippe and several members of his family paid a visit to the camp. but his Majesty, with a due regard to economy, did not expect his son to renew the hospitality of the Duc De Boufflers, and the only "entertainment" provided was a theatrical representation at the Chateau de Compiegne.