

LORD GIVE ME REST.

Lord give me rest. My soul is bowed and broken,
My heart is desolate and full of pain;
Its empty rooms—wherom no word is spoken—
Are like the chambers where the dead have
lain.

Lord, send me rest, the clouds more thickly gather;
The skies above my head are leaden gray;
Oh, take me gently by the hand my Father,
Until the darkness shall have passed away.

I dare not ask for earthly joy or blessing—
Do with me, Lord, in this as seemeth best—
I only pray, look on my grief in passing,
And send unto my troubled spirit rest.

Lord give me rest—I cry from out the shadows—
Rest in Thy love, Ah, shall I cry in vain?
And lo, like summer rain upon the meadows,
Peace drops into my weary life again.

CREEDMORE RIFLE RANGE.

(From the Galaxy for August)

While we note the decline of base ball, we observe with interest the indications afforded by the establishment of a National Rifle Association, and the inauguration of its range at Creedmore, near New York, that we have witnessed the first beginning of a pastime that bids fair, ere many years to become a truly national amusement and exercise, as well adapted to Texas and California as to Maine and New York; and peculiarly American, by the historical associations of a hundred years of victory and prosperity. The opening of a single rifle range in a single state is only a beginning, but it is a significant beginning when the character of our people and their history is remembered, as well as the history of the similar institution in England. We are, in a great measure, the descendants of the Bowman that sent their flights of cloth yard shafts at Crecy and Angincourt; and the same temperament and spirit that made them such magnificent marksmen survive in the Anglo Saxon race to day. Wherever they have an opportunity they assert themselves, as our own riflemen shewed in the Revolution, and as our mountain men show even to day all over the west, from Buffalo Bill down to the least known scout, who serves against the Modocs or the Apaches. There is in our native American character a natural and hereditary aptitude for rifle shooting, an enthusiasm, latent, only requiring to be called out, that makes this a sport peculiarly apt to catch the public fancy, if once fairly presented. Its strength, its great strength, we are convinced, has not so much in its military as in its social and entertaining aspect. The English kings in times past, were particular to encourage shooting in every county; each parish had its "buts," and every fine summer evening found the young men at their shooting, while the ladies looked on and smiled on the victorious and bantered the clumsy marksman; and these kings found their reward in their invincible archers. So we may confidently look forward to the time when the crack of rifles shall re-echo from "ranges" established all over the land. That this is by no means an extravagant expectation is proved by the wonderful career of success that has attended the practice of rifle shooting in England since the first inauguration of the British National Rifle Association. Beginning with a few, emerging slowly to public view against a dead weight of true Anglo Saxon stolidity and indifference, it took a sudden leap to popularity after the writing of Tennyson's famous "Form! Rifleman, Form!" The angry attitude of France in 1859, after the victory of Solferino, and the true British rabinity on the Gallic question, were skillfully taken ad-

vantage of by the poet in his appeal, and the riflemen did, in truth form all over the country.

In Canada the same result was attained by the fears of those mythical demons of rapine, the terrible Fenian brotherhood. Rifle practice has become universal in Canada and a Canadian "team" carried off the grand prize at Wimbledon a year ago, beating all comers. The result which in England and Canada has been gained by an appeal to national fears, is more likely in our own country to be gained by an appeal to national pride and aptitude. Our National Rifle Association has succeeded in erecting a "range" as fine as any in the world, at a cost of nearly thirty thousand dollars; in exciting an interest in all parts of the Union about their plans and objects; and has accomplished all this within a year and a half from the time that some twenty private gentlemen met together to organize a club, in the office of a busy New York editor. That the object has been effected so soon, without any assistance or political influence, and in spite of the supreme indifference of all the military authorities in their official capacity, is proof that the interest in the subject must be latent in American nature to be so easily awakened. What has been accomplished in England a glance at the list of prizes at Wimbledon last year will show. The interest must be great which induces not only the Queen, Prince of Wales, Princess Alexandra, and other members of the royal family, to give munificent prizes year by year, but also brings out gifts from dozens of the nobility and gentry, and from Indian rajahs and China merchants. We find such offerings as "the Rajah of Kolapore's Imperial Challenge Cup," "the China Challenge Cup," "the Belgian Cup (given by the Chasseurs Eclairés of Brussels and Antwerp)," "the Birmese Cup," "Daily Telegraph Cup," "Graphic Cup," "Public Schools' Cup," among a host of others. We find matches between the House of Lords and House of Commons, Oxford and Cambridge, factory against factory, volunteers against regulars, lawyers and merchants, every class of society except the church; and we doubt not some of the muscular Christians among them are itching to be at it.

CITIZEN SOLDIERS.

On Wednesday night Major Beaumont gave notice in the House of Commons that he would move a resolution implying an opinion that the reserve defences of this country should be formed of men who had passed through the ranks of the regular army. Of the necessity of having a strong reserve composed of disciplined soldiers there can be no doubt; but if Major Beaumont means to insist that our reserves should consist wholly of such men he can hardly expect the sense of the House to be with him. England, has a land of "civilians," feels justly proud of that army of of Volunteers who have been enrolled at a comparatively trifling cost to the nation, and who, at a moment's notice, can be called upon to aid in the defence of their native land. It is well known of what valuable assistance the Franco-tireurs were to the French during the late war, though, in the first instance, they were badly armed and equipped, and had undergone little or no training. Thanks to their knowledge of the country and their mysterious movements, they were able to follow detachments of troops, numerically very superior to themselves, until a favourable opportu-

nity presented itself for attack. Announcing their presence by a shower of bullets—sometimes from the windows of a rustic cottage, from behind a wall or hedge, from the narrow loopholes of a church steeple, or from the covert of a wood—they kept the invaders in an almost perpetual state of alarm. The only force that could be successfully pitted against them was the ubiquitous German Cavalry, as the Franc-tireurs, on their part, were the only match for the Ulman troopers. The first question which the Germans invariably asked on entering a French village during the war—unless they happened to be in very considerable force—was whether there were any Franc-tireurs or Garibaldians in the neighbourhood: "Franc-tireurs, Garibaldians, capoutte" was a favourite expression with the common soldiers who would even draw their hands across their throats in a significant manner to explain their meaning. So exasperated were the invaders by the surprises to which they were constantly subjected, and by the losses which they continually suffered at the hands of the irregular troops of the country, that they proclaimed Franc-tireurs and Garibaldians *hors la loi*, and almost invariably shot the prisoners belonging to these corps who had the misfortune to fall into their hands.

When we recall the valuable aid rendered by the Franc-tireurs during the war, and reflect that the greater number of them were mere youths, who had never before in their lives handled a rifle, it is obvious that those who have been subjected to the training of soldiers, and who have undergone a regular course of rifle practice, would be more serviceable still. This logical inference, however, is precisely that which the House of Commons is invited to ignore by the terms of Major Beaumont's resolution. Notwithstanding the existence of that motion on the paper we take it is proved beyond doubt that it is to the interest of every nation to possess a well organized force of citizen soldiers—ready for war if war should come, but more precious still as tending to render a war impossible by making it impracticable.

We are thoroughly persuaded that the organisation of a citizen soldiery may be converted into an efficient instrument for the preservation of peace; and there is just now a movement on foot which we think will go some way towards attaining that object. We refer to a letter which has been published by some of our contemporaries from the secretary to the Anglo-Belgian Prize Fund Association. The idea, we may briefly state, is "to extend to other countries the rifle competitions which had taken place for some years past between England and Belgium. Assuming that the suggestion is adopted, the annual competitions would take place consecutively in each country, so that they would be held in each, once in every six, seven, or eight years. Each country would furnish a special committee, forming part of the association, to arrange the details connected with the competitions so far as they concerned their own countrymen. The association would be conducted by a council composed of delegates from the committees of each nation—the rulers of the various countries being solicited to become patrons, in the same manner as the King of the Belgians is the patron of the Anglo-Belgian Prize Fund Association, to which His Majesty subscribes the annual sum of £150."

The *Times of Germany*, an English newspaper published at Frankfurt, comments upon the subject in the following terms: "It seems to us," says our contemporary, "that an association of this nature is likely