

married men between the ages of 18 and 45, and select from them, either by ballot or command the number required. A roll was to be kept of all militiamen in service and their farms were ordered to be tilled by the other residents of the parish, township or seignior, and if they had families dependant on them, they were to be cared for, voluntary substitutes were allowed to replace those who might be selected for active service.

An act passed in (29 Geo. III.) 1789 amended the foregoing by the provision that the militia were to be mustered for drill, etc., one day in each month from 1st May to 30th September.

To be Continued,

British Armor and Ordnance.

From the London "Engineer."

Our authorities tell us, not in answer to questions, but spontaneously, that at the present moment England is taking the lead both in armor and ordnance. It is some years since such a statement was made, and we need to test the grounds before we allow ourselves to accept so pleasant a conclusion. Lord Spencer has at all events one definite feature to point to, namely, the manufacture of wire or riband guns for the service, in which at present Eng'and stands alone. The 12-in. wire gun, fired as it is with cordite, is a very remarkable weapon, and we are glad to hear that a few made in the arsenal are nearly ready for service, one having undergone proof. Smaller calibers of wire guns are naturally being pushed forward also. At the institution of Naval Architects on Thursday, March 15, Mr. White made the statement that for the moment, at all events, England is ahead of other powers in the matter of armor. The general statement that England was now leading, although unqualified, may have been intended to refer only to Europe. So far as actual resisting powers are concerned, we should confer with Mr. White in giving the preference to Harveyed plates. Krupp's treated plates have in some instances closely resembled those subjected to the Harvey process, but the last one tested at Pola was unfortunate, and without saying that Krupp will not equal or beat us on some future occasion, at the present moment we think that the plates he has submitted for public trial have not established a record that can be considered equal to the very extensive one now achieved by English-made Harvey plates in England and on the continent. Of treated plates the Harvey undoubtedly stands first at the present time. Both in the use of nickel and in the Harvey process the United States were in the field before us. They tested their Harvey plates with 8-in. Holtzer steel shot; while we were attacking our compound plates treated by the Presider process, with 6 in. shot only. Their plate trials have been in the very front as to progress. Last year they tested magnificent nickel steel plates with Carpenter projectiles made in America, which put to shame the Holtzer shot fired on the same day, although the latter were of smaller caliber, and therefore easier of manufacture. It needs, then, very

clear evidence to establish a claim for superiority as compared with the United States, even for the moment. We think, however, that the following points may be urged, although we speak doubtfully. In testing plates to destruction, an investigation has led to the conclusion that Harveyed steel plates, without any nickel in their composition, are slightly superior to those containing nickel, their resisting power to penetration being greater, although their toughness is less. In the United States nickel is used in all plates, but it is doubted whether thick plates can with advantage be subjected to the Harvey process. Without giving a distinct reason, the makers seem reluctant to subject their thick plates to the prolonged high temperature which is needed, urging generally how undesirable it is to do so unless the grain is very great; while they point out that the good effect of the water hardening and carbonization is necessarily limited to a depth which tells much less on thick than on thin plates. In addition to this we have heard that trouble is caused in America by the difficulty of drilling holes in the faces of their hard plates. In the discussion which followed the reading of his paper, Mr. Ellis stated two facts bearing on this: one that the presence of nickel causes to crystallize at a much lower temperature than it would otherwise, and the other, that the "arc light" system of drilling is not applicable to plates containing a high percentage of carbon and nickel together. It seems, then, a natural conjecture, that the nickel in the United States plates has given trouble both in the Harvey process and in the process of drilling, which trouble we have happily avoided owing to the decision to dispense with its use. If this is so we shall find that the United States will soon follow our example, and we may in the mean time be said to have the lead that Mr. White claims; although we acknowledge that whatever may be the dislike to apply the Harvey process to thick armor, extraordinary results have in one instance been achieved by a United States Harvey plate 14-in. thick. We also have to admit that the remarkable series of successes achieved by the Harveyed plates, conclusive as they are as to firing for experiment, have as yet not convinced the continental powers that they ought to adopt them, because the process causes the plates to bend and alter slightly in form, and they are not satisfied that this can be so calculated and allowed for or so controlled as to admit of armor being fitted properly to the form of the ship's side. The answer was given to this objection that the U. S. ship "Maine" had been competed with her supply of Harveyed plates, that our own makers have now succeeded in making plates to a given curve, and that no serious difficulty is anticipated. We hope, then, altogether that at the present moment we stand in a very favorable position to furnish the new ships to be laid down with the best armor, and we trust soon to be able to give our readers detailed evidence with regard to our guns.

A Plain Tale of 1893.

[From the N. Y. "Tribune."]

Heroic deeds are not, as some apostles of the commonplace would have us think, lost to the world in these degenerate days. Nor yet are they so plenty that we can afford to let even one pass by unnoticed and unrecorded. Great disasters and arduous expeditions call them forth, and they are seen, too, in the daily current of events in the humblest walks of life. Often the heroes are unconscious of their own worth. But the chief value of such deeds is not in the glorification of the deed, but in the inspiration they give to the beholder to the reader, to all who know of them. The news of Lovett Cameron's death recalls to mind many acts in his career as noble and as modest as the best in romantic annals; and there comes at the same time from the same Dark Continent a plain tale of plain men in this latest year of the era of commonplace as thrilling as any saga of Odin and his heroes.

It was in Matabeleland, in Captain Wilson's fatal pursuit of the wily rascal Lobengula. The principal facts of that gallant but disastrous ride have already been made known. But an officer in one of the Matabele regiments, who himself led in the attack upon the entrapped Englishmen supplies in his own graphic phrases some details that can never be forgotten. "I Machasha, induna in the Inyika regiment," he says, "tell you these things." We were 6,000 men against your thirty-four. . . . They rode into the track and linked their horses in a ring, and commenced a heavy fire upon us, and our men fell fast and thick. We opened a fire upon them, and killed all their horses. Then they took to cover behind their horses' bodies and killed us just like grass. We tried to rush them. Twice we tried, but failed. After a time they did not fire so much, and we thought their ammunition was getting short. Then, just as we were preparing to rush again, they all stood up. They took off their hats and sang. We were so amazed to see men singing in the face of death we knew not what to do. At last we rushed. You white men don't fight like men, but like devils. They shot us until the last cartridge, and most of them shot themselves with that. But those who had none left just covered up their eyes and died without a sound. Child of a white man, your people know how to fight, and how to die. We killed all the thirty-four. But they killed us like grass."

Not the Spartans at Thermopylae, nor the Guard at Waterloo, presented a spectacle of sublimer heroism than that handful of Englishman, surrounded by savage foes more than a hundred to one, when the last cartridges were in their revolvers standing up in full view of their slayers, reverently bearing their heads, and singing "God Save the Queen!" Your latter-day materialists may sneer at it as fustian, or as mere brute desperation. It is neither. It was the sense of duty conquering the sense of fear. It was courage of soul triumphant over impending dissolution of the body. It was a "crowded hour of glorious life" that indeed was "worth an age without a name;" worth it, not only to the actors in it, but to the whole human race. These men had no reason to think, and did not think, that their death song would ever be heard by other ears than those of their destroyers. Their deed was not bravado, but modest, loyal duty. But their voices will henceforth live in countless throbbing hearts, and their valor make life and the world seem nobler to all their fellow-men.