

whose history appears rather mythical, it has been the birth-place of more than one distinguished corps. Here were raised, in 1759, the Eighty-fifth Royal Volunteers—the earliest light infantry regiment in the British Service, and it was under the command of Lord Pulteney, who held the lieutenant colonelcy of the then newly raised Shropshire Militia, as well as of the Eighty-fifth, that the grenadiers of the latter regiment mounted on some of the Sixteenth Dragoons' horses, performed their dashing feat—one of the most dashing on record—at Valenciennes d'Alcantara, on the 17th September, 1762. A regiment numbered as the Ninety-first, who served as Marines under Sir Ed. Hughes, was raised here in 1780. The present Eighty-sixth (Royal County Down), as we have stated above, was formed at Shrewsbury in 1793, and so, also was another corps, numbered as the "hundred and twentieth foot" which had an ephemeral existence about the same time.

Last on our list is Warwick, where were rendezvoused two newly raised corps of foot—the Ninety-sixth and Ninety-ninth—in the days of the old American war, at the conclusion of which they were disbanded.

Our readers cannot fail to draw one moral at least from the facts we have here collected regarding regimental cradles. They will be less shocked than they otherwise might have been at the recent transformation of the "Army List" and be inclined to consider that if modern names for so many old regiments are now deemed matters worthy of *esprit de corps*, still newer titles may have a chance, and that we may in time, after a federal Republican war for instance, come to talk of the First Northumberland Brigade as glibly as we now tell off the No. 1 to the Royals recently restored to its Scottish nationality, and about to be known as part of the Greenlaw Brigade!—*Broad Arrow*.

TO SHARP SHOOTERS.

CREEDMORE:—ITS LOCATION AND ITS PRESENT CONDITION.

From the New York World.

For years the military loving Englishman has had cause to be proud of his magnificent camp of instruction for target practice at Wimbledon; and for years the annual contests between the hundreds of volunteers for the prizes offered have been one of the features of the London season, while the winning of the Elcho shield, Queen's prize, and other trophies by any particular section of Her Majesty's dominions have been made the occasion of almost universal rejoicing. In this country the reverse is the case, notwithstanding the magnificent personnel of our citizen soldiery. The latter, indeed, as a class, have pluck and endurance second to none, and, while not believing in passive obedience, are susceptible to drill and easily made trained soldiers, which the history of the war shows. This however, is not enough. A man to be an A1 soldier, must, in this age of long range fire arms, know what his weapon is capable of doing and be able to do it well. To do so a man must have practice. With this in view, the National Rifle Association obtained a charter from the State Legislature in 1872. Since then the Association has worked with much energy, and finally after due deliberation, purchased a tract of land measuring seventy acres. It is situated upon the Central railroad of Long Island, twelve miles from Hunter's Point,

and within thirty minutes' ride of the Thirty-fourth street ferry, which is about the same distance from New York that Wimbledon is from London. The following is an extract from the last report of the Association on the grounds:

"These grounds are admirably adapted for the purpose for which they have been selected. As level as a billiard table, they afford twenty separate ranges, each of which can be used from 100 to 1000 yards, and without the use of elevated firing stands, found necessary upon most English and Canadian ranges. In addition, ample room is left for "pool" targets and a "running man" as well as for camp purposes and distance drill. The only objection to them is that their being a plain has compelled the Association, in order to insure safety, to construct an embankment 25 feet high and 570 feet long, requiring over 27,000 cubic yards of earth. Owing to the fact that the Central Railroad Company had a heavy cutting near the range, which left a large quantity of earth on their hands, the Association has succeeded in closing a contract with them to erect the embankment for \$4,500, being about 17 cents a cubic yard, which is an extremely low price. The first contract was for two embankments, one of 300 and one of 150 feet in length, separated by an interval of 120 feet, for which \$4,000 was to be paid; but it has since been considered best to fill up this interval and make the embankment continuous, the railroad company having offered, in consideration of the injury they had caused the Association by their delay in completing the embankment, to do this extra work for \$500 additional.

The embankment was to have been commenced last fall, but in consequence of some trouble with the railroad, it cannot be completed until late next spring. The work of laying out and fitting the ranges for the Association has been done under the direction of Captain William Price, of the Ordnance Department, United States Army, and Mr. J. Church of this city.

The system of instruction adopted by the National Association is the same that has been so successfully followed at Wimbledon. In laying out the grounds twenty separate ranges have been made, nine to be operated upon the "Scoble" or sunken pit system of marking, and eleven upon the "Hill" or side system. In addition, it is proposed to have two "pool" targets and a "running man" at ranges of 100 and 200 yards. The targets themselves, with their appurtenances, are composed of iron slabs, six feet by two, made to bolt together, so as to allow of their size being altered or diminished at pleasure, as well as to be converted into extra mantlets if required. Finding that there were no American establishments familiar with the manufacture of targets and appurtenances required upon the range, and also finding that they could be purchased at a much lower price in England, the Association purchased last August fifty target slabs, one double and one single mantlet (the fourteen slabs comprising which being also available for targets), seventeen ringing centres, eighteen trigger-testers, together with a number of other articles, at an expense of \$4,153.47, which articles have since arrived and are now on the grounds at Creedmore, and will no doubt all be in position for the inaugural meeting in May.

The Association has been received with a cordial welcome by those who know the many advantages to be gained by being a member of the National Rifle Association. Not only will its members have a fine place to shoot at, with a fine restaurant on the

grounds, but there will be camping facilities that will be of great advantage to companies or battalions who may wish to improve themselves in their knowledge of camp details. The location is healthful, and Creedmore may in a few years become as popular as Wimbledon. Already the Association has several very valuable prizes to be shot for, including a Gatling gun as a regimental prize, twenty-five gold mounted rifles for individual prizes, while the President of the Association will present at the inaugural competition a trophy of silver valued at \$500. General Shaler has also promised something in the same style to be contended for by the First Division, upon conditions to be hereafter announced. The Association have adopted a series of regulations to govern their competitions in marksmanship, which have been approved by the Adjutant General of this State, and which will, no doubt, give satisfaction to all competitors.

"During the past week," says the *London Broad Arrow*, "Major-General Wardlaw commanding the Curragh district, introduced the German war game in the Curragh Camp. The mode procedure was as follows: A map of the scene of operations was placed on the table, scale six inches to the mile; across the centre hung a curtain, and at a distance of two yards, i. e. twelve miles on each side of the barrier, the metal soldiers was ranged in columns of route. The umpire published a general idea, which gave the combatants an objective, and insured a combat, whilst the antagonists published special orders affecting the march of their troops. It soon became evident that in Kriegspiel the umpire has no sinecure. He not only must have a most intimate knowledge in the mode of procedure in actual warfare, but he must be a perfect master of the recognized rules. It is for the umpire to see that no liberty is taken with the metallic property of the armies—what flesh and blood can do is alone awful. It is for the umpire to give notice when a vidette in an actual campaign would be able to pierce the curtain barrier. When the armies or detachments come into collision, the umpire decides the odds in favor of one side over the other, through superiority of numbers, position or tactical formation. Then the actual loss is estimated by the throwing of dice. In his preliminary remarks the brigade major pointed out three most useful lessons to be learned by the game—viz, the art of an umpire, the use of a map, and the bounds of human possibility; and attention was specially directed to the distances taken up by troops on roads in column of route, in order to illustrate the advantage of using every available means of communication. As a matter of course, the tin blocks of soldiers are drawn exactly to scale, and evidently it is a work of time to deploy—say, 3,000 in fantry into battle order from its column en route. On the map the regulated distances were preserved, but it is notorious that in service the troops are wont to open out two-thirds more than their proper length of column. On Wednesday a very interesting engagement of advanced guards took place, but the small hours arrived before a general engagement could be brought off. We are informed that Major-General Wardlaw intends forming a war game association in camp. It is only fair to acknowledge that progress is the characteristic feature of the present administration in our Irish camp of military instruction.