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The Volunteer Review

AND MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Military and Naval Forces of the Dominion of Canada

VOL. VII.

OTTAWA, (CANADA,) TUESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1873.

No. 43.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Thirty-seven villages in the province of Shausee, Japan, have been swept away by the bursting of the banks of a river.

The delegates to the French Assembly are arriving in Paris, and numerous reports are in circulation respecting the course the different parties will take when the Assembly opens.

Admiral Lobos, commander of the Spanish fleet, has been removed from office for taking the squadron to Gibraltar without consulting his Government. The Minister of Marine has assumed command.

A terrible prairie fire swept over twenty-five miles of country near Omaha, Neb., on Tuesday, 21st inst, destroying many houses and large quantities of grain. Of ten school children caught in the flames, nine perished and four others were seriously injured.

Much damage has been done in St. Petersburg and the surrounding country by the river Neva raising ten feet above its usual height.

The Free Masons, Odd Fellows, and other benevolent bodies in San Francisco are sending aid to the sufferers in Shreveport and Memphis.

A despatch from Paris to the London *Times* reports that an understanding has been come to by the Monarchical party, the Comte de Chambord making certain concessions to the Liberal branch, who in turn promise him their support in the Assembly.

John Bright has been re-elected to Parliament.

The wife of Pere Hyacinthe, on Saturday, gave birth to a son.

Advices from Paris confirm the truth of the reported concessions lately made to the Monarchists by the Comte de Chambord.

The rebel frigate *Numancia* ran into her consort the *Fernando el Catolico* on Friday, sinking her and drowing half her crew. One version attributes the catastrophe to the ignorance of officers, while another report says the *Fernando* was sunk because she parted company and refused to answer the signals.

Bishop Mermilod, from across the French

frontier, has issued an edict prohibiting three curés, lately elected by the Old Catholic Congress, from performing the functions of their office. Pere Hyacinthe yesterday delivered a powerful sermon, in which he repudiated the assumption of power by the Bishop.

The General of the Order of Jesuits in Rome was yesterday notified by the Government that the buildings at present occupied by them must be vacated immediately.

Six convents were yesterday taken possession of in Rome by a committee appointed by law for the purpose. The United States and Portuguese Consuls entered a protest against the seizure of the Franciscan convents, on the ground that they were the property of citizens of their respective countries.

The Spanish insurgent squadron arrived off Valencia on Sunday the 19th inst, when the command sent a boat ashore demanding money and provisions, counseling the granting of his request as he did not wish to bombard the town. The authorities refused, and made preparations to resist an attack. Threats were then made of sinking a gunboat in the harbour, but the British Admiral demanded that ninety-six hours' notice of an attack should be given, and threatened to open fire on the squadron, if the demand was not complied with.

The Cunard Steamship Company intend withdrawing their vessels from the West India service and establishing a daily line of steamers between Liverpool and New York.

The Intransigent's vessels remain off Valencia, where they have captured several Spanish merchantmen. Troops are arriving, and the city is being prepared for an attack.

A deputation of members from the French Assembly waited on President McMahon yesterday, 21st inst, to ascertain if there was any truth in the report of his intended resignation. He replied that his services in any capacity were always at the command of his country, but repelled the idea that he would hold the office under any and all circumstances.

The Bonapartist organ in Paris, *Le Gaulois* publishes a document signed by many of the deputies who favor a plebiscite protesting against the restoration of a monarchy without consulting the country.

The recent hurricane in Cuba was very destructive. Many lives were lost, and 300 houses were destroyed in Havana.

During an interview between Prince Bismarck, Count Androssy and the Italian Minister, at Vienna, yesterday, 21st inst, the former urged the matter of ecclesiastical legislation, and suggested identical action by Austria and Germany in the matter of Papal election. At a banquet, given in the evening, the Emperor William said the meeting at Vienna was a pledge of the peace of Europe.

A meeting of delegates of the Right Centre of the Assembly was held on 22nd inst., Duke D'Audesseret Pasquier presiding. A resolution recalling Count de Chambord to France was unanimously adopted. The meeting also adopted a resolution formally coalescing with the members of the Right. A communication was addressed to a party of the Left Centre, with a view to an understanding upon questions of moment.

The trial of Bazaine was continued at noon, 22nd inst., with the presentation of further evidence in regard to the amount of ammunition in Metz. Some of the witnesses testified that a third of the supply in the magazine at the beginning of the siege was consumed before the 16th of August.

The Intransigent vessels have left Valencia: not stated in what direction they proceeded. Before leaving, they plundered ten more Spanish merchant ships, four of which were taken along with them. They failed to capture the Government gunboat, *Lepanto*.

Admiral Lobos acknowledges that he disobeyed orders in leaving Cartagena for Gibraltar with the National squadron, and has asked that his case be tried by court martial.

A telegram from Calcutta to the *Times* says a severe famine is threatened in the Province of Bengal.

RIFLE COMPETITION.

RIFLE CONTEST BETWEEN THE REGULARS AND VOLUNTEERS.

The challenge match between 20 men of the 60th Royal Rifles and an equal number of the 63rd Halifax Volunteer Battalion came off at Bedford yesterday. A number of the officers of the two corps and a few other spectators were present. The weather, though it appeared threatening in the morning, proved very favorable for the marks men. Several of the best shots of the 63rd made small scores, yet the shooting, altogether, was good. The ranges were 200, 300, 400, and 500 yards; 5 rounds at each. The men were divided into three squads. Two of these squads gave a majority of 39 for the Volunteers. The third gave a majority of 38 for the Regulars, leaving the Volunteers the victors by a single point. It must be noted, however, that the 60th Royal Rifles used the Martini Henry rifle, which, according to army regulations, is counted as fifteen per cent. better than the Snider-Enfield, which the 63rd used, and that discount is allowed in all matches where the two rifles compete. Had the match been concluded according to the terms, the 63rd would have been declared the winners by 171 points, but as the Volunteers accepted the challenge to fire on even terms there is only a majority of one point. This victory over a crack shooting regiment of the army speaks well of the skill of our volunteers. The best scores of the day, it will be seen, were made by Sergt. Bowler of the 60th and Sergt. Bishop of the 63rd, each of whom scored 65.

Annexed is the score:—

| 63rd VOLUNTEERS. | | Totals. |
|--------------------|----|---------|
| Lieut. Walsh | 52 | 52 |
| Sergt Corbin | 59 | 59 |
| Sergt Connors | 51 | 51 |
| Sergt Egan | 55 | 55 |
| Corpl Paulin | 61 | 61 |
| Private Campbell | 52 | 52 |
| Private Goulding | 58 | 58 |
| Lieut Mumford | 59 | 59 |
| Sergt Bishop | 65 | 65 |
| Sergt Stenhouse | 61 | 61 |
| Sergt Sheppard | 61 | 61 |
| Sergt Larkin | 64 | 64 |
| Sergt Scott | 53 | 53 |
| Private Mersen | 51 | 51 |
| Lieut Fultz | 55 | 55 |
| Lieut McInnes | 60 | 60 |
| Sergt Taple | 58 | 58 |
| Sergt Power | 53 | 53 |
| Private Morris | 52 | 52 |
| Corpl Hickey | 48 | 48 |
| | | 1139 |
| 60th ROYAL RIFLES. | | Totals. |
| Lieut Holbeck | 62 | 62 |
| Sergt Parker | 51 | 51 |
| Sergt Walsh | 49 | 49 |
| Prvt Burrell | 56 | 56 |
| Sergt Wilson | 38 | 38 |
| Sergt Murphy | 56 | 56 |
| Col Sergt Leach | 57 | 57 |
| Qr Mr Toole | 58 | 58 |
| Sergt Bowler | 65 | 65 |
| Sergt O'Neil | 57 | 57 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Corpl Mackey | 53 |
| Corpl Brock | 60 |
| Prvt Nadin | 51 |
| Col Sergt Underhill | 61 |
| Capt Whitaker | 62 |
| Sergt McCardle | 57 |
| Corpl Duane | 59 |
| Prvt Bowler | 61 |
| Sergt Tuwood | 64 |
| Col Sergt Thompson | 61 |

—Cronicle,

1138

The first annual meeting of the United States National Rifle Association opened at the Creedmoor range, Long Island, on Wednesday, the 5th inst. The U.S. Army and Navy Journal graphically describes the difficulties under which the opening match was shot, arising from the state of the weather, unskillful scorers, and other causes incidental to the infancy of the institution of this description, and with the exception of the weather, will all be easily overcome, and even the exception can be remedied in a great measure by holding the annual tournament at an earlier period in autumn.

The prizes are stated to be nearly worth \$10,000. Our contemporary says:

Several new features have been introduced in the range, and among the most serviceable of them was the establishment of telegraphic communication with the grounds by the railroad company, press despatches being forwarded over the wires free of charge. The butts and line of firing were also connected by means of the system used by the New York fire alarm, and this was found to be of infinite service during the meeting. The shooting in the first two competitions, as before stated, was exceedingly poor; the strong wind and prevailing completely demoralizing our amateur riflemen, few of whom knew anything about "windage," etc. The shooting by no means came up to the practice in any of the matches—sixteen at 200 yards, standing, being the highest out of a possible score of twenty in the first two competitions. The shooting in the first division match commenced at 3 p.m. The first stage of this match, 200 yds. was finished before 5 p.m.; and the second stage, 500 yards, was commenced on Thursday morning. The following is the result of the different competitions as far as ascertained up to the time of going to press:—

COMPETITION I.

Judd Prize.

Weapon, any military rifle. Distance, 200 yards. Position, standing. Five rounds. Number of entries, 96.

| | Totals. |
|---|---------|
| First Prize—W. Robertson, 79th inf'try. | 16 |
| Second Prize—J T B Collins | 16 |
| Third Prize—C A Strube, 22d infantry. | 16 |
| Fourth Prize—Robert Campbell, Victoria Rifles, Montreal | 15 |
| Fifth Prize—Sergt Vanil, 9th Infantry. | 15 |
| Sixth Prize—J F Richards, 7th Inf'try. | 16 |
| Seventh Prize—Lt. Col. Gildersleeve, 12th Infantry. | 15 |
| Eighth Prize—J L Price, 7th Infantry. | 15 |

COMPETITION II.

Sportmen's Match

Open to all comers. Weapon, any rifle. Distance, 200 yards. Five rounds. Position, standing. Number of entries, 129.

| | Totals |
|--|--------|
| First Prize—O Schneelock, 32nd Inf. | 16 |
| Second Prize—A Robertson, 12th Inf. | 16 |
| Third Prize—J T B Collins | 16 |
| Fourth Prize—C B Waterbury, 12th Infantry | 16 |
| Fifth Prize—A Anderson 4th N J | 16 |
| Sixth Prize—Gen. J V Mesrolo, 11th Brigade | 15 |
| Seventh Prize—Leo Backer, 22nd Inf. | 15 |

In these two competitions, ties occurred between Messrs. Robertson and Collins, and General Mesrolo and Leon Backer.

Our contemporary says of the second day:

"The weather on Thursday was delightful, though a strong wind discomposed the riflemen somewhat in their shooting. Fortunately this was parallel to the line of fire, so that a slight deviation served to compensate for this. A band in attendance from Willett's Point added to the attractions, and the grounds and number of ladies showed the growing interest which Creedmoor is awakening. Next week we shall be able to give a more complete review of the shooting and institute some comparison of what has been done heretofore at Creedmoor and elsewhere. The score of the later competitions came to us too late for report this week.

The second stage of the Second Division competition at 500 yards, which had been postponed on Wednesday on account of the lateness of the hour at the time it was closed, opened on Thursday at nine o'clock, and was completed early in the day. The result was as follows, according to the score as it was recorded at headquarters at the close of the match:

COMPETITION III.

First Division Match.

Open to teams of twelve from each regiment or battalion in the First Division of the National Guard. S.N.Y. Weapon, Remington rifle, State model. Distance, 200 and 500 yards. Five shots each distance. Position, standing at 200 yards; any position at 500 yards. Number of entries, 96, comprising teams from the Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Twelfth, Twenty second, Sixty-ninth, Seventy first, and Seventy-ninth.

| | Totals. |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| 1st. 22nd Inf. | 293 |
| 2nd. Private Cocks, 32nd Inf. | 29 |
| 3rd. 12th Inf. | 235 |
| 4th. 9th Inf. | 299 |
| 5th. Sergt. Wood, 12th Inf. | 28 |
| 6th. Lt. Col. Gildersleeve, 12th Inf. | 28 |
| 7th. Sergt. Major Roux, 22nd Inf. | 28 |
| 8th. Sergt Freeman, 22nd Inf. | 28 |
| 9th. Drum Major Strube, 22nd Inf. | 27 |
| 10th. Private Smith, 12th Inf. | 26 |
| 11th. Private Robertson, 79th Inf. | 25 |
| 12th. Private Backer, 22nd Inf. | 24 |

The Second Division match, which followed immediately after, resulted as follows:

COMPETITION IV.

Second Division Match.

Open to teams of twelve from each regiment or battalion of the Second Division of the National Guard, N.Y.S., same weapon and upon the same conditions as prescribed for the preceding match.

| Prize. | Totals. |
|--|---------|
| 1st. 22nd Inf. | 178 |
| 2nd. 32nd Inf. | 160 |
| 3rd. 28th Inf. | 120 |
| 4th. Capt. Lutz, 22nd Inf. | 27 |
| 5th. Sergt. Battenhauser, 32nd Inf. | 26 |
| 6th. Sergt. A. Bunce. | 23 |
| 7th. Private Corrie, 14th Inf. | 22 |
| 8th. Schneelock, 32nd Inf. | 22 |
| 9th. Holton, 13th Inf. | 22 |

This was the way the score stood at the headquarters at the close of the contest, but the Thirty-second Regiment lost one score at the 500 yards firing by the failure of one member of their team to appear on the second day. He carried off with him the evidence of the score made by him at 200 yards. This, if produced, will change the result, and put the Thirty-second regiment at the head of the list.

The Army and Navy Journal much resorted as follows:

COMPETITION V.

Army and Navy Journal Match.

Open to teams of twelve from all regular organized military organizations in the United States, including the Regular Army, and Marine Corps. Weapon, any military rifle. Distance, 500 yards. Rounds, seven. Position, any. First prize—To the regiment whose team makes the light score, a silver trophy, manufactured by the Gorham Manufacturing Company, and presented by Col. Wm. C. Church on behalf of the Army and Navy Journal. This prize is to be won three times before becoming the property of the winner. It will be held for a year by the officer commanding the winning corps, and a large photograph of it presented to each member of the winning team.

| Prize | 500 yds. |
|---|----------|
| 1st. 22nd Infantry. | 211 |
| 2nd. 79th Infantry. | 152 |
| 3rd. 12th Infantry. | 143 |
| 4th. Pte. Carmichael, 22nd Inf. | 24 |
| 5th. Drum-Major Strube, 22nd Inf. | 23 |
| 6th. Private Coeks, 22nd Inf. | 21 |
| 7th. Lieut. Col. Hitchcock, 9th Inf. | 21 |
| 8th. Pte. Lockwood, 22nd Inf. | 21 |
| 9th. Private Boeber. | 21 |
| 10th. Adj. Murph. 12th Inf. | 21 |

The third and fourth competition were won as follows:

COMPETITION VI.

All-Comers Match.

Open to all comers. Weapon, any rifle. Distance, 500 and 600 yards. Rounds, seven each. Position, any. Number of entries, 117.

| Prize. | Totals. |
|---|---------|
| 1st (Wesson Rifle, value \$75)—R. Omand, 13th Batt., Canada Militia, Hamilton. | 49 |
| 2nd. (2) J P M Richards, 7th Inf. | 49 |
| 3rd. (4) Lieut. Campbell, Victoria Rifles, Montreal. | 48 |
| 4th. (5) Ens. Jas. Adams, Hamilton, 13th Batt., Canadian Militia, Ontario. | 47 |
| 5th. (\$5) E H Sanford, 7th Inf. | 45 |
| 6th. " G W Yale. | 45 |
| 7th. " I Tolley, Victoria Rifles, Montreal. | 44 |
| 8th. " H Fulton. | 43 |
| 9th. " Lieut. A Anderson, 4th N J. Infantry. | 43 |
| 10th. " W C Reddy, 12th Inf. | 42 |

COMPETITION VII.

State Match.

Open to teams of twelve from each regiment N.G.S.N.Y. Weapon, Remington rifle, State model. Distance, 200 and 500 yards. Rounds, five each. Position, standing at 200, any at 500. Entries; 15 teams, 171 names.

| Prize. | Totals. | |
|---|------------------------------|----|
| 1st. (silver cup, value \$500). Best team—22nd Inf, M G S N Y. 250 | | |
| 2nd. (Rathbone medal, value \$100). Best individual score—Priv. Backer, 22nd Infantry. | 31 | |
| Remington Rifle to highest score in each team. | 22nd Inf.—Leon Backer. | 31 |
| | 79th " Capt. Clark. | 30 |
| | 23rd " S J Kellogg. | 29 |
| | 12th " W S Smith. | 28 |
| | 19th " J McLean. | 28 |
| | 33rd " Capt Lutz. | 23 |
| | 69th " Capt. Collins. | 23 |
| | 9th " Hitchcock. | 26 |
| | 14th " J L Corry. | 26 |
| | 8th " F W Hofel. | 24 |
| | 23th " Capt. Schweizer. | 23 |
| 1st " C Zettler. | 22 | |
| 13th " W J Denslow. | 19 | |
| 84th " Drum-Maj. Nulle. | 19 | |
| 71st " Sergt. Waring. | 12 | |
| 4th (1). 2nd best team—12th Inf. | 253 | |
| 5th (2). 3rd " 79th Inf. | 252 | |
| 6th (4). 2nd best individual score—W J Carmichael 22nd Inf. | 31 | |
| 7th (Engraving, value \$10), third best individual score—Sgt. Major Roux, 22nd Infantry. | 30 | |

COMPETITION VIII.

Gatling Match.

Open to teams of twelve from each regiment N.G.S.N.Y. Weapon, Remington rifle, State model. Distance, 500 yards. Rounds, seven. Position, any. Entries, 96.

| Prize. | Totals. |
|--|---------|
| 1st. (Gatling gun), Best team—79th Infantry. | 199 |
| 2nd (Silver cup, second best team—22nd Infantry. | 184 |
| 3rd. (Silver cup), third best team—12th Infantry. | 176 |
| 4th. (3)—Best individual score—Capt Ames Ross, 79th Inf. | 24 |
| 5th. (4)—Second best individual score—Sergeant-Major Roux, 22nd Infantry. | 24 |
| 6th. (5)—Third best individual score—Keeler, 79th Inf. | 23 |
| 7th. (4)—Fourth best individual score—Sergt. Frothingham, 23rd. Inf. | 23 |

| | |
|--|----|
| 8th. (5)—Fifth best individual score Lieut Colonel Gilderale. | 22 |
| 9th. (5)—Sixth best individual score —Stamerson, 79th Inf. | 22 |
| 10th. (5)—Seventh best individual score—G Cudlipp, 12th Infantry. | 21 |

COMPETITION IX.

New Jersey Match.

Open to teams of twelve from each regiment N. G. S. N. J. Weapon, such a rifle as should be prescribed by Governor of New Jersey. Distance, 200 and 400 yards. Rounds, 5 each distance. Position 200, standing, 400, any. Number of entries, 20. Prizes.

| Totals. | |
|---|-----|
| 1st. (Silver trophy)—Best team—4th N. J. Inf. | 179 |
| 2nd. (Gold badge)—Best individual score Pt. Scott, 4th N. J. Inf. | 27 |
| 3rd. (Silver medal)—2nd best individual—Capt. Abernethy, 4th Inf. | 26 |
| 4th (Bronze medal)—3rd best individual score—Lieut. Anderson, 4th N. J. Inf. | 25 |

COMPETITION X.

Railroad Match.

Offered by Herman C. Poppenhusen, Esq. on behalf of the Central Railroad of Long Island.

Open to members of the National Rifle Association and competitors in the foregoing matches, but excluding all winners therein, and all winners of the Turf, Field and Farm Amateur Club Badges.

Distance, 500 yards. Weapon, any military rifle. Position, any. Rounds, seven. Prizes.

| Totals. | |
|--|----|
| 1st. (Silver cup, value \$100)—Sergt. Magner, 22nd Inf. | 24 |
| 2nd (Silver cup, value \$75)—A. V. Canfield, 22nd Inf. | 23 |
| 3rd. (Gold badge, value \$50)—Bethel Burton. | 23 |
| 4th. (Silver medal, value \$25)—Sergt. Smith, U. S. Engineers. | 23 |
| 5th. (Cash, \$25)—Adj. J. T. Joslin, 19th Inf. | 23 |
| 6th. (Cash, \$20)—Governor Hawley. | 22 |
| 7th. (Bronze medal, value \$20)—F Werner. | 21 |
| 8th. (Railroad ticket, 1,000 miles, value \$18)—Lieut Horsfall, 22nd Inf. | 21 |
| 9th. (Cash, \$5)—Thos. Lloyd. | 21 |

COMPETITION XI.

Sharpshooters' Match.

Open to all comers. Any rifle within rules of the association. Ranges, 800 and 1,000 yards. Seven shots at each distance. Position, any. Prizes.

| Totals. | |
|---|----|
| 1st. (Gold badge, value \$50)—James Adam, 13th Batt. Canada Militia. | 48 |
| 2nd. (Meerschaum pipe), Sergeant Major A J Roux, 22nd Inf. | 41 |
| 3rd. (Silver medal, value \$30)—Robt. Omand. | 39 |
| 4th. (Life membership, value \$25)—H Falton. | 37 |
| 5th. (\$10 cash) Lt. Campbell, Victoria Rifles, Montreal. | 34 |
| 6th. (\$10 cash)—L I. Hepburn. | 34 |
| 7th. (\$10 cash)—G W Yale. | 31 |
| 8th. (\$10 cash)—Jos. R Hawley. | 28 |
| 9th. (\$10 cash)—M. Carmichael, 22nd Infantry. | 25 |

COMPETITION XII.

Press Match.

Distance, 400 and 500 yards. Rifle, any

| Prizes. | Totals. |
|---|---------|
| 1st. (Ice pitcher, &c., value \$50)— R Hawley, Hartford Courant (Sharpe)..... | 36 |
| 2nd. (3)—W H Clark, Daily News, (Remington Sporting)..... | 31 |
| 3rd. (5)—L C Bruce, Turf, Field and Farm (Sillard)..... | 27 |
| 4th (5) hos. Lloyd, Harpers's Weekly (Billard)..... | 23 |
| 5th. (5)—C J Shanks New York Tri- bune (Remington)..... | 22 |
| 6th. (Engraving, value \$10) J C Mo- ntyre, Boston News (Rem- ington)..... | 14 |

An examination of these tables will show that the best scores to-m at 200 yards were made by the Twenty-second in competitions 3 and 7, the two scores being the same, viz. 158 out of a possible 240. The Twenty third and Thirty second regiments at the same distance made each 125 out of a possible 240. The best team score at 500 yards was that of the Twenty-second regiment, in competition 5, viz. 221 out of a possible 336.

In the individual competition the best scores at the different distances were the following:

| | Competition. | Possible score, 20. | | | | | Arm used |
|--|--------------|---------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| | | 200 yds. | 400 yds. | 500 yds. | 600 yds. | 800 yds. | |
| Capt. Clark, 79th Inf..... | 7 | 17 | | | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| W. Robertson, 79th Inf..... | 1 & 2 | 18 | | | | | Semi'g'n Mil. |
| J. T. P. Collins, G. A. Strube, 22d Inf..... | 1 | 16 | | | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| O. Schneelock, 32nd Inf..... | 2 | 16 | | | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| A. Robertson, 79th Inf..... | 2 | 16 | | | | | Remi'g'n Sp'g. |
| C B. Waterbury, 12th Inf..... | 2 | 16 | | | | | do |
| A. Anderson, 4th N. J. Inf..... | 2 | 16 | | | | | Winch'r Sp'g. |
| Gov. J. R. Hawley, Hartford, Conn..... | 12 | 18 | 18 | | | | Sharpe's Sp'g. |
| Sergt. Wood, 12th Inf..... | 8 | | 19 | | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| Lt. Col. Gilder, 12th Inf..... | 3 | | 16 | | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| J. P. M. Richards, 7th Inf..... | 0 | | | 28 | | | Sharpe's Sp'g. |
| G W Yale, Hartford, Conn..... | 0 | | | 28 | | | Sharpe's Sp'g. |
| R. Omand, Canada..... | 0 | | | 25 | | | Remi'g'n Sp'g. |
| Lieut. Campbell, Canada..... | 1 | | | 25 | | | Netford Sp'g. |
| Pte. Curmichael, 22d Inf..... | 5 | | | 24 | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| Capt. John Ross, 79th Inf..... | 8 | | | 24 | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| Sgt. Maj. Roax, 22d Inf..... | 8 | | | 24 | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| Sergt. Wagner, 22d Inf..... | 10 | | | 24 | | | Remi'g'n Mil. |
| R. Omand, Canada..... | 6 | | | 28 | | | Remi'g'n Sp'g. |
| Jas. Adam, Canada..... | 6 | | | 24 | | | Rigby. |
| H. Fulton..... | 6 | | | 24 | | | Remi'g'n Sp'g. |
| Robert Omand, Canada..... | 1 | | | 26 | | | Remi'g'n Sp'g. |
| Jas. Adam, Canada..... | 11 | | | 25 | | | Rigby. |
| Jas. Adam, Canada..... | 11 | | | 23 | | | Rigby. |
| Sgt. Maj. Roux, 22d Inf..... | 20 | | | | | | Rigby. |

"This table will show that the best shooting was made by the Canadians, which was to be expected, as they sent some of the riflemen who had been sifted out from among

all the Canadian sharpshooters to send to England to compete for the championship at Wimbledon against all comers. These Canadian gentlemen received a hearty welcome to Creedmoor, and their success there was the best possible illustration of such a system of training as it is the purpose of the National Rifle Association to establish throughout the country. It was a great pity that they could not have been brought into competition with some of our sharpshooters from the frontier. Another year we hope to be able to give them a taste of their quality, as well as to offer them a better showing on the part of the National Guard, who have, however, no reason to be ashamed of the showing they have made in competition with some of the best shots Canada can send us. J. P. M. Richards, of the Seventh regiment, made the same score at the All-comers' Match at 500 and 600 yards as Omand, one of the Canadians sent to Wimbledon to compete for the championship; and in the sharpshooters' competition at 800 and 1,000 yards Sergeant Major Roux of the Twenty-second regiment, beat Omand's score, and was not far behind that of the Canadian, Ensign Adam, who bore off the first prize. The best shooting at 800 yards, and in most of the competitions was made with the American rifle, the Remington, and the Messrs. Remington, as well as the members of the National Guard have every reason to congratulate themselves on the record the State gun has made for itself at Creedmoor. Whatever the various fancies in other matters of weapons, certainly no troops need ask for a better gun.

Our contemporary has good reason to be satisfied with the results of the first Annual Meeting of the "National Rifle Association," and we hope our own people will be enabled by means of an International contest similar to that which has taken place between English and Belgium marksmen, to prove to our neighbors that those gentlemen of our army who have been allowed to compete in the first annual match at Creedmoor are not the only good shots Canada can boast of; and although they have enjoyed the honor of contesting at Wimbledon, there are others in this country quite as qualified to bear their part at either places.

What we should like to see, however, would not be a contest between individual marksmen, but the average scores of a company and battalion.

The concluding portion of our contemporary's article is as follows:

"Thus closed the first annual prize meeting of the National Rifle Association—a competition in which fifteen out of twenty two infantry regiments of the first and second divisions of the National Guard of this State participated, besides representatives of the Regular Army of the Canadian militia, and our amateur riflemen. The meeting was, as a whole, a great success, though another year the directors of the Association, profiting by their experience, will, we doubt not, be able to make many improvements in their methods of conducting their business.

REVIEWS.

"THE ALDINE."—The *Aldine* for November has been received; and its illustrations as well as the high literary merit of its prose and poetry, are fully equal to any one of its predecessors. From an artistic point of view, this magnificent serial has no superior on the North American continent. Besides the two full-page original pictures, this number contains reproductions of three celebrated steel engravings, which alone would cost at the picture shops no less than \$30. The illustrations are:—Lake Mohawk, in Ulster County, New York—a beautiful sheet of water, in a wild region; *Homo and its Treasures*; *A Chance Meeting*; *The First Visit*; *The Ripened Grain*; *A White Mountain Brook*; *The Robber of the Air*; *English Mastiffs*; *A Masterpiece*; *Ratisbon Cathedral*; and a *Portrait of C. T. Dix*, a promising U.S. artist, who died recently in the capital of Italy (Rome). The poetry in this number is of unusual excellence, comprising, among other pieces, a long poem, by Mary A. Bradley, entitled "The Little Hero of Haarlem," founded on fact. The number before us is worth treble its cost, and is gotten up in the highest style of art. Terms:—Five dollars per annum in advance, with *Oil Chromos* free. Postage—24c. per annum, payable quarterly. James Sutton & Co., publishers, No. 58 Maiden Lane, New York.

The attention recently given to matters relating to the Eastern question has brought to light that so far back as 1819 the advantageous results to be expected from the conversion of Khiva into an appendage of Asiatic Russia were pointed out in that year Captain Modraviev, a Russian officer, who was sent on a mission to a Khan of Khiva:—"If we possessed Khiva," wrote Modraviev, "the conquest of which would not be difficult, the nomades of Central Asia would dread our power, and a route for commerce would be established by the Sind (Indus) and Amooderia (Uxus) to Russia. All the riches of Asia would then flow into our country, and we should see the brilliant projects of Peter the Great realized. Once masters of Khiva, many other States, including Bokhara, would become dependent upon us. In a word, Khiva is at this moment an advanced post, opposed to the commerce of Russia with Bokhara and northern India; but if subject to us the Khivan territory would become a stronghold which would defend this commerce against the attacks of the tribes dispersed over Southern Asia. The oasis, situated in the midst of an ocean of sand, would become the point of reunion of all the commerce of Asia, and would shake, even to the centre of India, the enormous commercial preponderance of the dominators of the sea."

DOMINION OF CANADA.



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS.

Ottawa, 24th October, 1873.

GENERAL ORDERS (25).

No. 1.

ACTIVE MILITIA.

MILITIA STAFF.

BREVET.

To be Lieutenant Colonel, as a special case :
Major Pennyman W. Worsley, Brigade
Major, Grand Trunk Railway Brigade,
Although Lieutenant Colonel Worsley has
not completed his five years' qualifying ser-
vice in the rank of Major, promotion is spe-
cially given him in consideration of his
efficient services in promoting the success of
Rifle Shooting in the Militia of Canada.

PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

26th "Middlesex" Battalion of Infantry.
No. 4 Company, Thamesford.

To be Lieutenant, provisionally :

John Brown, Gentleman, vice J. Dundas
whose resignation is hereby accepted.

To be Ensign provisionally :

Adam Armstrong, Gentleman, vice Holmes,
whose resignation is hereby accepted.

19th "Northumberland" Battalion of
Infantry.

No. 2 Company, Cobourg.

To be Captain :

Lieutenant George Guillet, V. B., vice
James Auston, deceased.

To be Lieutenant :

Ensign John McCaughey, V. B., vice
Guillet, promoted.

PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

5th Battalion "Stadacona Rifles."

No. 5 Company, Quebec.

To be Ensign :

Beverly Eppes, Gentleman.

65th Battalion or "Mount Royal Rifles"

No. 6 Company, Montreal.

To be Captain :

François Lapointe, Esquire, M. S., vice
Denis, resigned.

To be Lieutenant, provisionally :

Edmond Barselou, Gentleman vice Hens-
ley, resigned.

Portneuf Provisional Battalion of Infantry.

No. 5 Company Ecureuils.

To be Ensign :

Proxede Bernard, Gentleman, M. S., vice
Joseph Denis, left limits.

Charlevoix Provisional Battalion of Infantry.

No. 3 Company Les Eboulements.

To be Captain :

Lieutenant Joseph Tremblay, M. S., vice
Edward N. Slevin, left limits.

CONFIRMATION OF RANK.

2nd Lieutenant William Henri Brouage
Chaussegros de Léry, G. S., Quebec Field
Battery, from 30th August, 1873.

2nd Lieutenant Charles Edmond J. Du-
chesnay, G. S., Beauce Field Battery, from
30th August, 1873.

PROVINCE OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

62nd "St. John" Battalion of Infantry.

To be Captain :

Lieutenant Hugh McIntyre, M. S., vice
Cyprian E. Godard, left limits.

To be Ensign, provisionally :

Private George K. Wallace, vice A. H.
McIntosh, left limits.

PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

Digby Battery of Garrison Artillery.

The Head Quarters of the Battery of
Garrison Artillery at Chester are hereby
removed to the Town of Digby.

To be Captain, provisionally :

John Daley, Esquire, vice J. Albert Hiltz
out of limits.

To be 1st Lieutenant, provisionally :

Edwin C. Dodge, Gentleman, vice Edwin
Loddy, out of limits.

To be 2nd Lieutenant, provisionally :

William Lawry Gilpin, Gentleman, vice
James Williams out of limits.

66th "Halifax" Battalion of Infantry.

To be Lieutenant :

Ensign Charles E. Putner, M. S., vice
Humphrey, promoted.

To be Ensign, provisionally :

Private H. M. Hamilton, vice Putner, pro-
moted.

Victoria Provisional Battalion of Infantry.

No. 1 Company, Baddeck.

To be Captain :

Lieutenant William Cain, M. S., vice Nor-
man Melrae, left limits.

BREVET.

To be Lieutenant Colonel :

Major George R. Anderson, Q. F. G., 63rd
Battalion, from 1st October, 1873.By Command of His Excellency the
Governor General.

WALKER POWELL, Lieut. Col.

Acting Adj. General of Militia,
Canada.

HABITS OF QUEEN VICTORIA.

Queen Victoria has now presided over the
destinies of the British Empire for upwards
of one generation. From the Christian Ad-
vocate we give the following account of the
private life of the illustrious lady :

"When free from the cares of State,
nothing can be simpler than the daily
routine of life Queen Victoria leads at Bal-
moral Castle. She manages her household
on very strict principles, servants accord-
ing to merit—promotion always being held
out. For a stupid act, one member of the
royal household had to wait ten years for
promotion. Her Majesty rises at seven,
takes breakfast at nine, and lunches at two
and then drives out in her carriage. During
meals, a piper plays in front of the window.
She has dinner at half past eight in the
library not having used the large dining
hall since the death of her husband. There
is no display in the library—the arrange-
ments are of the simplest character. She
spends much of her time in Prince Albert's
room. She comes quietly into her dinner,
with her knitting in her hand, and retires
early. She is a woman of great method.
In all weathers she is seen abroad. A rainy
day does not keep her in; with a waterproof
and umbrella she defies the elements. It
is quite a common thing to see her walking
in the grounds under a drizzling rain. She
is a hearty woman, having no "fine lady"
fancies. She dresses consistently with the
climate and weather, and a fresh, comely,
sensible looking woman she is in her com-
fortable plain jacket and broad brimmed
hat."

Queen Victoria lives—not under, but—
over a monarchical government, yet the
above account of her domestic life, which
we have every reason to believe to be cor-
rect, shows her to be in very favourable
contrast with the wives and daughters of
many of our shoddy aristocrats.

A friendly rifle match was fired at Halifax
on 21st inst., between 20 of the 60th Rifles
and the same number of the 66th Battalion
of Volunteers; ranges, 200, 300, 400 and 500
yards. The Rifles won by 219 points.

The flag-ship Royal Alfred proceeded to sea
this morning for ball practice, but was
obliged to return to port on account of the
boisterous weather outside.

Her Majesty's steamers Swallow and
Woodlark which sailed some time ago, the
former for Newfoundland, and the latter for
Jamaica, were obliged to return for same
cause.

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The Volunteer Review,

AND

MILITARY AND NAVAL GAZETTE.

"Habited, unbought, our swords we draw,
To guard the Monarch, fence the Law."

OTTAWA, TUESDAY, OCT. 28, 1873.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Letters addressed to either the Editor or Publisher, as well as Communications intended for publication, must, invariably, be *pre-paid*. Correspondents will also bear in mind that one end of the envelope should be left open, and at the corner the words "Printer's copy" written and a two or five cent stamp (according to the weight of the communication) placed thereon will pay the postage

We publish to-day the full scores of the contestants at the Creedmoor (Long Island, U. S.) rifle range during the first annual match of the National Rifle Association, and quite are pleased to see the splendid shooting made on this occasion.

As a matter of course, it was to be expected that such crack shots as our Canadian soldiers would bear away any prizes in the competitions to which they had access, but it is only fair to say that this proficiency was acquired by years of careful practice.

We do not think the United States' frontiers men will do any thing to advance the National credit as marksmen, because they have not practised shooting with a military weapon, and we look on the *snap* shots at deer or bears in the backwoods frequently at fifty, never beyond one hundred yards, as no naming for the weapons of the present day.

We have republished in another page the leading article of the United States *Army and Navy Journal* on this first Rifle Tournament,

and would direct our readers' attention to the remarks respecting the Remington breech-loading rifle, which appears to have been the favorite weapon.

Our Canadian Riflemen seem to have confined themselves to the Rigby rifle, and it does not seem as if there was any Snider Enfield or Martini-Henry rifles used in the contest at all. We are no advocates of the practice of using sporting rifles in those contests; the soldier's weapon is the only one should be allowed, and till the issues are confined to that, skilled marksmen will be confined to a small class.

The tournament was most creditable, and reflects honor on the promoters of the National Rifle Association.

OUR readers will recollect that the VOLUNTEER REVIEW has, on several occasions during the controversy on the remodelling of the British Navy, opposed in the most decided manner the introduction of the so called *Monitor* type into the Navy of Great Britain, and contended that every principle of practical science was outraged by such constructions as the unlucky *Captain* and her conjurers, and that the adoption of armoured vessels, except as floating batteries for inshore service, was a grave mistake. It was also stated that once the power of the gun had exceeded the resistance of the armour, that the latter was wholly useless except as against shell-fire.

At the same time, the true type of the war vessel of the (then) future was described as a *wooden* frigate of great speed, capable of sailing or using *auxiliary steam power*, heavily armed, and able to choose her own position tactically whether in attack or defence. Most of the articles on this subject were written over two years ago, and it appears that England had already inaugurated the era of a return to common sense and *wooden walls* by the launch of the *Shah* unarmoured frigate on the 10th of September.

From *Broad Arrow*, of 13th September, we copy the following description of the best and fastest war vessel afloat:

"The launch of the *Shah* (originally called the *Blonde*) has added to the navy an unarmoured iron screw frigate sheathed with wood. She is designed to carry twenty guns. Her engines are to be supplied by Messrs. Ravenhill and Co., of 1000 horse power (nominal), and will be fitted with Henschel's patent propeller. She is expected to attain great speed under steam, and, from the fineness of her bow, this expectation will no doubt be realized. The principal dimensions are:—Length between perpendiculars, 334 ft. 8 in.; length of the keel for tonnage, 298 ft. 5 in.; breadth extreme, 52 ft.; breadth for tonnage, 51 ft. 6 in.; breadth moulded, 50 ft. 4 in.; depth in hold, 17 ft. 6 in.; burden in tons (O.M.) 4,210 40-94; total weight when completed for sea, 5,700 tons; load draught of water forward, 21 ft.; aft, 25 ft.

"She will carry about 950 tons of coal; this, at half-boiler power, would enable her to keep under steam for nine days, or, at full power, for four days, and it is expected that a speed of about 16 knots will be obtained at the measured mile. Her armament will

be—main deck, sixteen 6½ ton guns on slides, two 64 pounders on common truck, carriages. Upper deck, two 12½ ton guns, six 64-pounders. The 12½ ton guns on the upper deck are carried one at each end of the ship; turntables are fitted from side to side. These guns are covered by the poop and forecastle, which give protection from rifle-firing, falling spars, &c., when in action. The ports are recessed, and allowed a great range of fire. The foremost gun, or bow chaser, fires from two ports of a side, and command an arc of from 23 degrees abaft the beam to five degrees across the keel, or a total range of 118 degrees; the after gun firing from one port of a side, has a range of from 15 degrees before the beam to 5 degrees across the keel, giving a total range of 110 degrees.

"The poop is a novel feature in the construction of this ship, and the armament is considered a great improvement on that of the *Inconstant*, a similar ship, the heavier guns being carried on the upper deck, where they can be given the greatest possible range, and being available when main-deck guns could not be used. She will be fitted with Forester's steam steering gear, steam capstans, and all the modern improvements in steam pumps and auxiliary engines for fire service. She is divided, by means of water tight bulkheads and flats, into 11 compartments; the iron plating is covered on the outside with two thicknesses of carefully selected teak planking, the inner thickness secured to the ship with iron fastenings, the outer secured to the inner thickness by metal fastenings. Great care is taken to prevent any galvanic action between the iron of the hull and the copper with which the outside sheathing will be covered. For the same reason the after part of the keel, together with the stern and rudder-posts, are formed of gun metal. These, together with the rudder, have all been cast in the dockyard at Portsmouth, and weigh about 50 tons.

"The ship's side, on the main deck between the guns, will be lined with paper half an inch in thickness; this is to prevent the spread of splinters, which would be caused were the sides lined in the ordinary way with wood. It is said that the work, both in wood and iron, has been admirably carried out, and will bear comparison with any yet done."

The armament of this powerful vessel is simply contemptible, she can carry heavier guns than the *Devastation*, and more of them. It is ridiculous to see at the present stage of improvement in science and mechanics *common truck* gun carriages in use; and the *Shah* will not be long afloat before she carries an armament proportionate to her powers.

Another contemporary reviewing the case of the experimental *Wampassoag*, referred to in our last issue, in reference to the failure of herself and consorts, says:—

"Our naval constructors have been more fortunate. Two, however, of 2,000 tons have been found too small, but two, the *Raleigh* and *Inconstant*, of 4,000 tons and 1,000 horse power, have been quite successful—the latter fairly surprising even her builders' expectations by going at the rate of over 17 miles an hour under steam. But the *Shah*, just launched about a month ago, is spoken of as the finest and fastest ship afloat in the world. She is of the same tonnage and horse power as the *Inconstant*, but from various improvements, particularly in the arrangement of her armament, she is

confidently expected to run at least eighteen knots, that is more than 20 miles an hour. We know of small steamers used in smooth water and even the Irish channel, which sail as fast, but no man-of-war with guns, coal ammunition, stores, and so forth, has even approached this amazing speed. Jonathan then has led the way on paper, but failed in execution, while John Bull, improving on the suggestion and avoiding his rival's errors, now possesses the finest and fleetest ship of war that the world has yet seen. We have used in speaking of these new vessels, the word ship, because in addition to their steam power they are fully rigged ships, in masts and yards, and thus prepared to cruise under canvas alone in any part of the world, and for any length of time—using their steam only in action.

"Of the exact weight of the gun carried the accounts before us do not speak. We know, however, that while they carry formidable guns the length of range is the point, next to the speed, aimed at. It will be obvious, even to those who know least of nautical matters, that the ship which, from her superior speed, can choose her position in attacking an enemy holds that enemy almost at her mercy, even if her range of gun should not be very superior, because, in every ship there are points, forward or aft, in the line of her keel, that is to say, from which she cannot fire without cutting down her own mast or standing rigging. We do not speak, of course of turret ships which, being little capable of going to sea, have no masts, and can fire over all. But such a ship as the *Shah*, carrying guns of great range, though of smaller calibre, can choose her own position, and choosing a position on which an iron-clad could bring no gun to bear or to hit, of course the strength of her plating or power of her artillery would avail nothing in the long run, for she could be nothing more than a floating mass to be fired at till an unlucky shot reached her crew, her machinery, or her steering apparatus.

"Such, at least, appears to have been the idea of the American projector, and such, so far as can be seen, England has given practical effect to, and thus it would seem that the terrible armour clads, the *Retributions*, *Devastations*, and such like, with their enormous guns, are quite likely to be superseded by the stinging steel shot of such wooden ships as the *Inconstant* and the *Shah*—that is to say, that the whole question of attack and defence at sea is about to be re-argued and re-experimented on, at a cost of further millions of taxation to be levied from the already over-burdened taxpayers, not of England alone, but of the maritime world.

"It follows, as a matter of course, that the *Shah* will not be the last of her class built. America, from causes quite under control, has, it is true, failed in her first experiment, but she will renew the contest for superiority. France and all the other maritime powers must follow suit, and it certainly seems a strange thing that just as the armour plates had received their greatest development in the *Devastation*, a new ship heaves in sight which laughs at their unwieldy strength, refuses to come within range of their Woolwich Babies, and raking them from stem to stern, sends them helpless to their moorings or to the bottom. Strange it is indeed to think of the impending change! But England has nothing to fear; her sailors are as skillful and brave as they were in the days of Duncan and Nelson, and assuredly they will fight none the worse when they find themselves once more

on board of real crack ships—things of life and beauty, which may compare with the *Arctus*, the *Piques*, and the *Druids* of their old songs.

"We are not indulging in speculations either on the fanciful or the remote. The iron clads are admittedly unwieldy and of questionable seaworthiness. The *Devastation*, for instance, the newest and the most formidable, goes to sea in good company to look for a gale of wind that she may be tested, and in case of accident, succoured. Such care proves grave fears for her safety, and already her crew have pronounced her more of a bathing machine than a ship. Such a ship as the *Shah* is described to be, finding her in heavy, or in any weather, would, we firmly believe, be more than a match. And were both ships waiting for a volunteer crew preparatory to an encounter, we are pretty sure that the *Shah* would be manned by fifties ere the monster could muster five blue jackets. No, we do not speak from mere imagination, we think we are perfectly warranted in saying, that the wooden walls of our country will once more take their old honored places in our country's defence. Armour must, as it has disappeared from the breasts of our warriors, fall from the sides of our ships. It cannot be otherwise. The gun powder, the bullets, the iron, still retain their old properties. No human frame could carry iron enough to resist the musket. No ship can float iron enough to resist the Palliser shot. Strong arms and stout hearts must fight and win in battle. The blacksmith and his anvil can furnish the tools for offence, but the eternal law of nature tells us that the Dead Sea itself could not float iron enough to resist the steel head of the Woolwich baby, or if need be, of a bigger brother."

It is evident then that the British Admiralty have shaken off the *Engineering* nightmare which has so long paralysed the energies of her naval constructors (in which latter class we do not reckon the builders of the *iron-clads*, as in no sense could they be called ships at all), and is about to start on a new course by which England will yet again have a fleet, and still be in a double sense mistress of the seas.

We are of opinion that both our contemporaries are under a great mistake in supposing that Mr. Esherwood's abortions had anything to do with the design of the *Shah*; they were armoured vessels of the *Monitor* type, without masts or sails, and how they could ever furnish a hint towards the design carried out so successfully, is beyond our comprehension. The ridiculous claims put forth by the constructors of the *Wampassoug* and her consorts, were also put forth in the case of the notorious *Dunderberg*, which spent a year and two months in making the voyage from New York to Cherbourg; while it evident the *Shah* has been constructed by a seaman as a *sailor's* ship, not as a *landsman's* ideal.

In another page will be found an account of the trials of the *Devastation*, and our readers will see no reason to doubt how thoroughly useless and unsafe she is.

The following description of the artillery equipment for the Ashantee war is taken from the *Engineer*, and shews how thorough

ly every possible contingency has been provided against. It is to be hoped that an Expedition provided with such ample means will be successful in putting an end to the power of a contemptible and savage foe, whose existence as a power has been a barrier against all civilising influences—alike injurious to European and native interests.

The *Engineer* says of the artillery equipments for the Ashantee war:—

"Almost every modern campaign introduces some new weapon or engine of war, nevertheless the preparations for Ashantee comprehend combinations unusually striking. Smooth-bore brass howitzers, drawn on miniature carriages by locomotive traction engines, or, as an alternative, carried on the heads of a number of women, constitute a form of artillery which, we will venture to say, has never been predicted by any one. A battery of 4½ in. howitzers, with 1800 rounds of ammunition, two Gatlings with their ammunition, exceeding the total number of rounds fired in the Russian war, are to be sent out. To begin with the howitzers. Sir G. Wolseley, it seems, specially wished for the 4-2½ in. or bronze smooth-bore Cohorn howitzer, in preference to the 7-pounder muzzle loading rifle-gun. The respective powers of the two guns are as follows:—The 4-2½ in. howitzer weighs 273lb it fires a spherical common shell weighing nearly 9lb. when filled with a bursting charge of 14oz. Its shrapnel contains 72 carbine balls, one pistol ball, and one buck shot. Its firing charge is 5oz., and it carries with tolerable accuracy up to 600 yards. The 7-pdr. weighs 200lb. It fires a common shell weighing 7lb. 5oz., including a bursting charge of 1lb. It fires a shrapnel containing 42 bullets, and is ranged with considerable accuracy up to 1800 yards. It has firing charges of 6oz. and 4oz., the latter for double shell at high angles. Thus, the 7-pounder is the lightest piece, and, if required, fires the more powerful projectile in its double shell; its shrapnel has fewer bullets, but its range and accuracy are superior beyond comparison. The preference for the smooth-bore is on the score of simplicity, because it may be in the hands of native troops. It became necessary to provide this gun with a special carriage, suited to the conditions under which it is to act. On the 21st of August last the question of the carriage was put to Colonel Field, and he undertook to design and turn out all carriages such as would meet the requirements of the case in a fortnight. In a week the pattern carriages stood approved, and in a fortnight the battery was ready for issue, as promised. The carriage consists of four pieces only, exclusive of wheels; it weighs 344lb. The wheels are 3ft. in diameter; the felloes and spokes are made of Santa Maria wood; the nave is gun-metal, being of the Madras pattern. The wheels have no "dish," and the axletree arm no "set" in it. The width of the track of the wheels is 2ft 4in., so that the carriage can move along a path 3ft. wide. The limber is made of Santa Maria, with two teak boxes, each containing ten rounds of ammunition—viz., five common shell, three shrapnel shell, and two case shot, together with cartridges, "common" and "diaphragm" fuses, tubes, and other stores. The small arm ammunition is very mixed. Besides the lead and powder sent out for obsolete arms, 3,000,000 Enfield muzzle-loading cartridges have been sent, and probably nearly 2,000,000 rounds of Boxer ammunition for Snider rifles. We now come to a very interesting feature in the preparations—the steam-engine. We have twice had

occasion to refer to the performances of the "steam sappers" at Chatham. It appears two of these are now to be sent out. There seems no reason why they should not be able to travel in the country: there is no artillery to fire at them; they are provided with changes of wheels and can go on soft ground, or with pegs in their tires up very deep slopes, and they are not liable to suffer from fever. The greatest objection we see to them is that their width is not in keeping with the rest of the train. From memory we are not able to say what advantage the trench steam engine now in use at Chatham has in narrowness of track, else we should have thought that modification of that engine might have been found preferable to the "steam sappers."

"About 2,000 railway sleepers, roughly sawn deals tarred over, have been made by the workmen in the Royal Arsenal Woolwich, and were on the wharf ready for shipment at the beginning of the week, but they will, it is understood, wait for the next ship. These sleepers will be laid transversely in the usual way, and not longitudinally, as at first expected, the latter plan being regarded as bad except where there is firm foundation. It is thought that the line of rails will be laid about forty miles from the point of debarkation, whether it be Cape Coast Castle, Accra, or some place in the Volta, according to the selection of Major-General Sir Garnet Wolsely, the Commander-in-Chief of the Expedition.

"The War Office having called for Volunteers from the corps of the Royal Engineers to lay the railway, more than fifty at once came forward to offer their services. Six of them were selected and sent on to Liverpool, and another six were sent to Woolwich, from the School of Military Engineering at Chatham for conveyance in the *King Bonny*. They were clothed in the new uniform adapted for the expedition, a tunic and trousers of the Eicho grey tweed, and gaiters, in which they much resemble the London Scottish Volunteers. They also wore the new pattern helmet designed for the service by an officer at the Army Clothing Depot at Pimlico, mainly composed of cork and canvas. The helmet weighs a trifle over six ounces, and is provided with an inner isolated zone to fit the head outside of which there is a space for ventilation—an object further insured by a perforation at the top. The whole of the British troops employed in the expedition will be provided with this outfit and puggarees and cap covers of white linen, padded with wadding, to protect the head and neck. They will have no fatigue cap except their own regimental one, which they may wear at pleasure, but every man will have two suits of clothing. The tunic introduces a novelty into the army in the shape of outside pockets, of which there are three, one on each hip and one on the left breast, wide, deep and strong. The garment fits loosely about the neck and chest, is confined at the waist by a belt of its own material. There is no stiffness in the collar, and it is altogether a comfortable and serviceable dress. The soldiers who have been fitted with it highly appreciate it, and especially praise the pockets.

"On Tuesday a hundred leather bags, to contain from 10lbs. to 20lbs. of gunpowder, for bursting gates and blowing up stockades, were shipped in the *Bonny*, in anticipation of rough sort of warfare which may be expected from the Ashantees, and the inde tactics which even in modern times have been serviceable at Delhi, Magdala, and among the Maories in New Zealand. Rockets, also

which, from their imperfect range and accuracy are little esteemed in wars among civilized nations, are sent in great abundance, the construction which similar missiles created among King Theodore's half-savage troops, being regarded as mainly instrumental in achieving the triumph of the Abyssinian expedition. A great number of Hales' rockets, which are fired without sticks, are being sent out in the ship which is about to sail from Woolwich. When fired from a tube or trough, they preserve their pivot upon their longer axis by jets of fire which escape from holes which surround the base and cause them to rotate, and, when they are spent, a shell in the head explodes, completing the havoc which their fiery flight has begun. The news brought by the *Congo*, which is the *Bonny's* sister ship, of the healthy state of the Gold Coast, has been received with much satisfaction by the crew and the troops who are going out. The non-commissioned officers of the Royal Engineers who embarked on Monday finding they could not have a fire on board to cook their meals, because the vessel was shipping ammunition, were permitted to go on shore again, and were messed at the Royal Engineer Barracks, in Woolwich, until they could take possession of their borths. Previous to leaving the Royal Arsenal they were photographed in their African outfit, at the chemical establishment. Their outfit includes a pint water bottle (cased in wood), and several have provided themselves with pocket filters, for fear that they might find those articles at a premium on the coast. The officers who have gone have had contrived for them a sort of pouch for the waist belt, containing a knife, fork, spoon, and other necessaries, the outside case of which forms a drinking flask. The breech-loading revolver which most of them wear attached to the waist-belt will carry a half ounce bullet with force enough to kill at sixty yards, and they can be loaded and fired at the rate of forty rounds per minute. Canteens, or drinking flasks, with straps for the shoulder, were sent on board the *Bonny* yesterday afternoon to the number of a least five thousand, and took up all the room there was left in the main hatch. A portion of the "pickled" sleepers for the railway was also got on board, and the Engineers when they arrive at their destination will find all the materials and tools ready to begin their work. They have with them hydraulic jacks and patent lifts, and a chest of gimlets, each half an inch thick and two feet long, presumed to be for the same service. It is a noteworthy, though perhaps an accidental, circumstance that all the men in the engineer squad are unmarried. Twelve more ovens, or rather the iron plates for constructing them, were also shipped in the *Bonny*. The Royal Carriage Department has constructed, six more carriages for Gatling guns, which are to be supplied by contract, and the department has also completed two more of the little carriages for Cohorn howitzers. In the Royal Laboratory, men and boys are still busy manufacturing buckshot and bullet ammunition, and a large number of additional hands have been taken on. An order has been received for nine millions of ball cartridge for the Martini Henry rifle, and there is no doubt that this order has some connection with the preparations for the Ashantee war.

The name of the next ship for the Gold Coast was not known at Woolwich yesterday and she will probably, like the *Adela*, arrive alongside the pier before any information is given respecting her. Without regarding the railway, which alone is expected to re-

quire two or three ships for its exportation there is still a vast quantity of stores to be sent out for the expedition, but three months have yet to elapse before the date when operations are likely to commence, and there is time, if necessary, to despatch a dozen more ships. The authorities have had under consideration the desirability of sending out a gang of English "navvies" to lay the railways, as was done at Balacava, but it is thought that, under the superintendence of the Royal Engineers, of whom more are to be sent, the Gold Coast railway can be laid down by the Gold Coast natives. The wagons sent to Woolwich with the convertible traction engines are thought to be unnecessarily strong and heavy for the slender rails provided, but one containing a water tank will probably be attached to each locomotive as tender, and the rest of the train made up of lightly built trollies, of which a half a dozen have been received as a sample. The barrack-room stores brought home from Canada on the withdrawal of the British army have been of some service in fitting out the present expedition, a large number of iron stands for barrack room tables and other articles of furniture having been brought out from store, and placed on the wharf ready for shipment. The tops of the tables, although the old ones were brought home from the Dominion, are provided anew. On Thursday a number of Thames watermen arrived at Woolwich with another fleet of surf boats for landing the troops. These were built by Forrest, of Limehouse, under a contract, and from their shape, their length, and their bright yellow colour, presented an unusual appearance on the river. They are built with double skins, copper fastened, and have no decks, except in the stem and stern sheets, which are precisely alike. Stores from the Control warehouses at the dockyard and other places are accumulating ready for the next ship.

A correspondent of the *Western Morning News* writes as follows, his letter being dated Cape Coast Castle, Saturday, Sept. 6:

"If even Europeans so well acclimated as myself feel enervated, what wonder is it that those who have but recently arrived at the coast are so thoroughly prostrated as to be almost unfit for duty. Of the others and men on shore few, if any, are really fit for active exertion. Sickness is very prevalent, and the number who give in almost daily increases. The hot damp exhalations from the swamps and lagoons, called "the smokes" penetrate through the whole system and act as a malarial, especially at night. Nor according to my experience, will the dry hot season, now rapidly approaching, bring much improvement. Many things might be had to improve the condition of Europeans, but as fancy prices are asked for everything of this kind now the money at our disposal is quite inadequate to procure them. The *Simoon* anchored off the coast, doing duty as a hospital ship. The marines on board—those she brought out originally—are reported to be fairly well; the men wounded in the late affrays are recovering. But Lieutenant Cheetham, Royal Marine Artillery, and seven marines are invalided home. Sergeant Sidebottom died on Thursday. Of the officers and men brought out by the *Borraconta*, Colonel Festing, Captain Despard, Lieutenant Allen, and five men alone remain on the coast.

"The fact of chief importance since my last is the extension of the blockade westward from Cape Coast Castle to the Assinee River, nearly 200 miles along the coast, to the extreme west of the Ashantee territory.

The declaration of this blockade has been rendered necessary by the more than suspicious character of some merchant ships hovering about the coast, some of which, we have good reason to believe, have been supplying the enemy freely with arms and gunpowder. Of course, to maintain an effective blockade of such a long coast-line requires a much stronger force than we have on this station.

"I mentioned in my last some details of the burning of Tacorady and Appoassi on the 26th of Aug. The party we landed were smartly attacked, much to their surprise, for the natives were absolutely invisible in the jungle. The *Barracouta* and the *Argus*, seeing the difficulty, ran in as close as possible to the shore, and threw shell into the jungle, thus covering the return of the men to the boats, not, however, before sixteen of them were wounded. I have since learnt that while performing this service—running closely along the shore—both the *Barracouta* and the *Argus* touched on outlying rocks which were not marked on the chart. Fortunately, the ships were got off again at once and with little damage, and continued the action. The ships having to leave immediately for Chamah Bay, in order to destroy the town of Chamah before natives could give warning. There was no opportunity of surveying the locality, but since then two or three expeditions on shore have been made with a view to survey the coast and take soundings. In one of these, on the 1st of September, Navigating-Lieutenant Wigham, of the *Barracouta*, and Navigating-Lieutenant Denny, of the *Argus*, were sent in charge of a party to survey the locality. While doing so, the natives fired from ambush into and over the boats, but fortunately precautions had been taken, and before any mischief had been done the boats were out of range. It is necessary, however, before extensive operations are undertaken, that a much better survey should be made, for landing or approaching the shore closely was out of the question. The coast is full of reefs, called by nautical men 'dangers,' which are not marked upon the charts. Every day—almost every hour—brings us rumours of intended attacks upon this or that British station. The two which are chiefly threatened are Dix Cove and Elmina, in the neighbourhood of which large forces of Ashantees, Achantees, and Chamah men have been hovering. The *Druid* is at Dix Cove, the *Merlin* and *Decoy* at Secondee, and *Argus* at Elmina. The *Bittern* has arrived from Ascension at St. Helena, and has gone down to Axim and the westward point.

"We are here at present quite in the dark as to what is being done and determined in England, but, as I mentioned before, an expedition to Coomassie generally commends itself as being the best means of striking a blow which shall be effectually felt. Such an expedition would do much to produce a healthy excitement among those who are now languishing under daily increasing heat."

On Thursday, 23rd inst., the second session of the Second Parliament of Canada was opened by His Excellency the Governor General.

Taken altogether, this was the most magnificent display which has been witnessed in Canada. His Excellency, attended by Lieut. Colonel Fletcher, Military Secretary, and Lieut. Hamilton, A.D.C., arrived at the Par-

liament building, a few minutes after three o'clock, p.m. He was received by the Usher of the Black Rod, Rene Kimber, Esq., Lieut. Colonel Powell, Acting Adjutant General, Lieut. Colonels McPherson, Wiley, Stuart, Strange, Aumond, Coffin, Denis, Ross (Governor General's Guards), and Jackson, Acting D. A. G.; Commander Blair Hamilton, R. N.; Majors White, Egleson, Ferry, Macdonald; Captains Graham, Walsh, Sparks, Duchesnay; Surgeons Neilson and Malloch; Paymasters Wicksteed and Woodburn, and about forty officers of the various arms of the service,—and escorted to the Senate Chamber, which was crowded with the wealth and beauty of the capital. Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin, Lady Harriot Fletcher and suite, were present on this occasion.

His Excellency being seated on the Throne, the *Black Rod* was despatched in due form to summon the Commons, and on their arrival His Excellency delivered the following speech in English and French:—

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

In accordance with the intimation given by me at the close of last Session, I have caused Parliament to be summoned at the earliest moment after the receipt of the Report of the Commissioners appointed by me to enquire into certain matters connected with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The evidence obtained under the Commission deserves careful consideration. The Report will be laid before Parliament, and it will be for you then to determine whether it can be of any assistance to you.

A Bill for the Consolidation and Amendment of the Laws in force in the several Provinces relating to the representation of the People in Parliament will again be submitted to you. By the postponement of this measure from last Session, you will have the advantage of including in its provisions the Province of Prince Edward Island, now happily united to Canada.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to whom a Royal Charter was granted, have, I regret to say, been unable to make the financial arrangements necessary for the construction of that great undertaking. They have, therefore, executed the surrender of their Charter which has been accepted by me.

You will, I trust, feel yourselves called upon to take steps to secure the early commencement and vigorous prosecution of the construction of that Railway, and thus to carry out, in good faith, the arrangement made with the Province of British Columbia. A measure for this purpose will be submitted for your consideration.

The extension of the bounds of the Dominion has caused a corresponding increase in the work of administration, and seems to call for additional assistance in Parliament as well as in Executive Government. A Bill on this subject will be laid before you.

Your attention will be invited to the consideration of a Bill for the establishment of a General Court of Appeal.

Measures relating to our navigable waters and to the Inspection Laws, will be laid before you; as also a Bill for the establishment of a Dominion Board of Agriculture.

The subject of the law relating to insolvency will necessarily engage your attention.

The efforts made by the several Provinces, as well as by the Dominion, to encourage immigration, have met with success, and a large number of valuable settlers have been added to our population. I do not doubt that you will continue your liberal aid to this important object.

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

I have directed that the accounts of the past financial year be laid before you. The prosperous condition of our finances continues, and the revenue has been sufficient to meet all charges upon it.

The estimates for the ensuing year will be laid before you. They have been prepared with due regard to economy as well as to the efficiency of the public service; and I trust that the supplies which are necessary will be granted without inconvenience to the people.

Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate:

Gentlemen of the House of Commons:

Your best attention will, I doubt not, be devoted to the important interests committed to your charge, and I am confident that your deliberations will redound to the advantage and prosperity of the country.

The Commons then retired to their Chamber, and the ceremonial was brought to a conclusion in the usual manner.

In our report of the admirable speech delivered by Colonel FLETCHER, on the occasion of presenting the prizes to the Governor General's Foot Guards, there is an inaccuracy which has crept into the text by inadvertence. It is that "the French infantry were armed with a breech loading rifle—the Chassepot—during the Franco-Austrian war," the fact being that the Chassepot was not issued generally to the French army till after the British army had received the Snider-Enfield. In justice to Colonel FLETCHER, we must say the speech was reported from memory, and there was no opportunity of submitting it to him for correction. His letter on the subject is published in another page.

Lieut. Colonel THOS. ROSS, and officers of the Governor General's Foot Guards gave a ball at the Queen's Hall on the 25th inst. It was well attended by the rank and fashion of the capital.

The *Levant Times* says the Turkish minister of war has been to the Palace, and presented to the Sultan Mother an address signed by Prince Yussuf Ezzeddin, marshal commandant of the Imperial Guard, the Seraskier himself, and the Dari Shoura (council of war) thanking Her Majesty for the gift she has made of sixty six-pounder Krupp guns. The cost of these, with carriages and everything complete, will be £20,000. This patriotic present was suggested to the Valide-Sultan by the order the government lately gave to Mr Krupp for 500 of his cannon of different calibres, to be supplied within four years. The Seraskierate has just concluded a contract with the Winchester Repeating Arms Company, of America, through their agents, Messrs. Azarin, Pere et Fils, for 50,000,000 cartridge cases, and the same number of bullets for the Snider rifles, to be delivered in forty weeks.

NEVER SPEAK ILL OF A BROTHER.

BY CORTLAND BALL.

Never speak ill of a brother!

Don't say a word that is mean;
You'll find that you'll have plenty to do
By keeping your own hands clean.
Never speak ill of a brother
Because he's done this or that;
Perhaps if you held the same dish,
You too, would spill all the fat.

Never speak ill of a brother!

Let others speak as they will,
If you can say nothing that's good,
You'd better by far keep still.
Those who are eager to utter
All the vile slanders they hear,
Don't consider for a moment
They're blasting a life most dear.

Never speak ill of a brother!

"Pause and consider awhile;"
His heart may be buried in sorrow,
"Yet more than yours free from guile."
Darkness may hover about him,
Leaving not one ray of light;
Though clouds have darkened his pathway,
That brother still may be right.

We know not the heart, my brother—

It may be as pure as the snow;
Then judge not, oh! judge not unkindly,
Show charity here below.
Oh! ne'er speak ill of a brother,
Ne'er speak one word that is mean;
You'll find you have plenty to do
If you keep your own hands clean.

THE HISTORY OF THE NAVIGATING CLASS OF NAVAL OFFICERS.

Now that there seems to be a probability of the old distinction between the navigating and the military branches of the naval Service being abolished, it may not be uninteresting to some of our naval readers to have a brief sketch of the history of that useful class of officers, who, it may be reasonably hoped, are about to obtain the full recognition of their services; for we cannot regard the step which is being taken to secure the amalgamation of the two branches of the Service as representing in any sense the abolition of the navigating class, but merely the admission to the same privileges as regards promotion and command of all officers entering the navy in any but a purely civil capacity.

There can be little doubt but that the appointment of masters, or sailing masters, as they were formerly styled, had its origin in the days when the distinction between the naval and military Services was much less marked than at present; when, in fact, it was scarcely recognized at all, and the command of ships, and still more frequently of fleets and squadrons, was given to men distinguished as military officers. Of such appointments we have numberless examples in the early days of the Royal Navy. From the reign of Henry VIII., onwards through the next hundred and fifty years, we repeatedly find officers taking command almost indiscriminately of land and sea forces, and the absence of any knowledge or experience of nautical affairs was no disqualification for an appointment as admiral. As instances of this we may cite the case of Sir Walter Raleigh, the Earl of Albemarle, and Prince Rupert. It was obviously necessary then that there should exist a class of persons competent to undertake the navigation and pilotage of the ships, the commander himself being merely a fighting officer.

It is not until 1675 that we find any definite regulations relating to the masters, but from the Order in Council of the 19th of May in that year granting them half pay when not actually employed in His Majesty's service, we can gather that their position was fully recognized and established. In 1699 we find the half-pay of masters was limited to the first thirty in seniority, the

first fifteen receiving two shillings and sixpence per diem, and the next fifteen two shillings per diem. During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries we find several references to the half pay of masters, each successive regulation granting some addition, either to the rate allowed them or to the number admitted to the privilege of half pay.

In 1805 a complaint is made by the Admiralty of the difficulty experienced in obtaining properly qualified persons to execute the duty of master on board Her Majesty's ships, and a recommendation, which was adopted by the Privy Council, was made for an increase in the rates of full and half-pay, and in order to encourage them to greater zeal in the Service, it was provided that they should not, in consequence of their having become masters, be rendered ineligible to be promoted to the rank of lieutenant, if from meritorious conduct a case should be made out for their advancement. At that time, it was the practice to enter as masters in the Royal Navy, persons who had served in the Merchant Service, and regulations were then enforced for the examination in navigation and pilotage of such persons as applied for admission into the Navy, and an allowance of half pilotage was granted to those who were certified by their captains as being fully competent to take sole charge of the vessel entering or leaving a foreign port, with the limitation that it was only to be paid to any officer for the first three times they brought the ship in or out of the same port. The highest rate of full-pay allowed by this order of 1805 to masters was five shillings a day, and this was only to be paid to the first fifty who were competent to take charge of first and second-rate ships, the next fifty were to receive four shillings and sixpence a day, the lowest rate was three shillings, and was granted to masters below the first three hundred who could undertake the navigation of sixth-rate ships. In 1807 it was ordered that all masters should wear a naval uniform. Notwithstanding this regulation we find that in 1808 complaints were made by several masters in the Royal Navy, who had had the misfortune to become prisoners of war in France, that they were classed with, and in all respects subject to the treatment of of foremastmen, in consequence of their not possessing the rank of commissioned officers in His Majesty's service; an Order in Council was thereupon obtained, conferring on them the rank of lieutenant, but ordering that they should take rank in the ships in which they served as warranted masters immediately after the junior lieutenants of the ship. In July, 1814, some modification was made in the examination of half-pay of masters, the examinations by the Trinity House being made, once for all, for all masters, who were required to prove their qualifications for appointment to any ship in the Service, instead of being, as formerly, under the Order in Council of August, 1805, to which we have referred, examined for each rate of ship. At the same time the number of masters entering the Service was limited to the number of ships in the Navy, exclusive of those building and not yet launched; this resolution was however, relaxed by order in Council of January, 1822.

In 1846 regulations respecting the position of retired masters were established, and it was ordered that they should take rank with, and wear the same uniform as commanders in the Navy. By the same order it was determined that the list of masters in

active service should be limited to four hundred. The time served as a master was allowed by this order to count for promotion to the rank of commander as time served as a lieutenant. The position of masters as in some sense the equals of lieutenants, or even commanders in the Navy, appears by this time to have been definitely settled, and with some regulations of minor importance, relative to full and half-pay, and pensions, matters remained in much the same state as regards the class of officers until, in 1857, the style and title of the navigating officers were altered. Masters of the fleet became staff captains; masters, and second masters, according to seniority, either staff commanders, or navigating lieutenants; and masters assistants, navigating sub-lieutenants. In 1867, too, the admission of officers from the merchant service into the navigating class was prohibited, all officers being entered as cadets and midshipmen for either branch of the service. From that time until the order issued last month, no change of importance has taken place in the position of these officers.

This brief sketch of the history of the navigating class of naval officer, proves to us that a conviction of their importance has been gradually, but only too slowly, forced upon the minds of the Admiralty, and every successive improvement in their pay and position, has been a tacit acknowledgment that they had been underrated.

The importance of the step which Mr Goschen is now taking cannot easily be overrated, and the inexorable justice of making ample provision for those officers of this class, who may have to retire as the new system is developed, we can have no doubt will impress itself upon his mind. He has never shown himself backward in doing justice to any class of officers who may have been aggrieved by innovations or reorganization, and we feel tolerably confident that no exception to the rate which has hitherto obtained at the Admiralty, since his accession to office will be allowed to interfere with the interests and advantage of the navigating officers, who may be almost regarded, as *par excellence* the scientific corps of the Navy. We fully sympathize, as we have before stated, with the new system, if it only be pushed to its logical result, of requiring all the executive officers to navigate and pilot their own ships, with the assistance of their lieutenants, or, in other words, of making navigation a *sine qua non* for all executive officers; and at the same time we desire and look forward confidently to, a proper provision for those officers who may be affected by the change.—*Broad Arrow.*

The *Army and Navy Gazette* says:—In the recent trial, the Sultan, when pitching at her heaviest and throwing the broken water over her fore-castle, split the solid water with her high bows and threw it aside. The Devastation did what she was certain to do with her low bows. In her heaviest plunges she took the solid water in clear over her stem head. The clear green seas rose half way up the jack staff on the stem head—17 good feet above the ship's line of flotation—and broke up into great heaps of foam, part of which was dashed against the fore end of the breastwork and the turret, and the remainder sent up over the turret the chart house above, and on the flying deck.

BAZAINE TRIAL.

Correspondence London Standard

On the eve of the opening of this *cause celebre*, I think that an outline of the circumstances under which the late Commander in chief of the Army of the Rhine is brought to trial may not be unacceptable to your readers, and may prove a not unfitting introduction to the ample reports which the *Standard* will publish of the proceedings before the court-martial about to assemble at the Palace of Trajan.

You must bear in mind that the prosecution was not initiated by the Government. Indeed, it is only fair to do M. Thiers this justice, that he has clearly perceived the awkwardness and inexpediency of raking up all the stories current about the campaign of Metz and the negotiations which preceded the fall of the "Maiden City." It was Marshal Bazaine himself, who, goaded by incessant attacks, availed himself of his right and demanded a court-martial on his conduct. The attacks upon him, did not proceed merely from the Radical press, whose outcry for his execution without a more than formal trial was one of its most conspicuously disgraceful features. Officers who had served under Marshal Bazaine thought it consistent with military discipline to publish books and pamphlets, in which they brought against their former commander in chief accusations of downright treachery. It is now nearly a year and a half since the marshal surrendered himself as a prisoner; but it is a mistake to suppose that the getting up of the case for the prosecution required all that time. Fortunately for the marshal, M. Thiers, who entertained a strong opinion of the mischievous character of the whole proceedings, put off the trial give time to public exasperation, to stimulated by inflammatory publications to cool down; and this delay has certainly given Marshal Bazaine the chance of a fairer trial than he would otherwise have had.

After the Parliamentary revolution of the 24th of May, and the accession to office of a Government which had no interest in conciliating the Radicals, and could afford to disregard their irritation, there was no longer any cause for delaying the trial which Marshal Bazaine had courted, and a court-martial was appointed to hear the case. The Presidency has, as you are aware, been conferred on the Duke d'Aumale, a choice which will secure the interests of justice, at the same time that it will afford the prisoner every guarantee that he could possibly desire. The court will assemble on the 6th of next month; the proceedings are likely to be protracted in the extreme, as, though there are formal charges brought against the marshal, the real issue raised is whether he did all that was to be expected of a commander in chief from the date of his taking the command of the army on the 13th of August, 1870, until the capitulation of Metz and the army around it on the 31st of October.

In plain language, the accusation against the prisoner sounds appalling. It amounts to this:—Was Marshal Bazaine justified in surrendering an army of upwards of 170,000 men? But merely in that light the case seems plain enough, and the prisoner would appear not to have a leg to stand on. But a succinct narrative of the circumstances which preceded and attended the capitulation places his conduct in a less unfavourable light. The evidence to be adduced at the trial will decide whether he is not more to be pitied than blamed. It is to enable

your readers fully to understand the bearings of the evidence that I lay the following narrative before them.

First, it may be interesting to them to know who Marshal Bazaine is. Francois Achille Bazaine was born in 1811. He enlisted as a common soldier in a line regiment in 1831. In 1832 he was made a sergeant, and one year later was promoted to a sub-lieutenancy in the Foreign Legion. In 1835 he got his commission as lieutenant in the 13th Regiment of the line, and soon after was detached to the Christino army in Spain, where he fought the Carlists by the side of many countrymen of our own in the British Legion under the late Sir De Lacy Evans. In 1838 he was made a captain in the 4th Regiment, and greatly distinguished himself in Algeria. His administrative abilities were as conspicuous as his gallantry in the field, and he was appointed superintendent of one of those *bureaux Arabes*, which of late years have been so severely, and in many cases so, justly criticised. His promotion continued to be extremely rapid, for in 1850 he was made Colonel of the Foreign Legion, and the outbreak of the Crimean war in 1854 found him a major-general. During the siege of Sebastopol he more than sustained his reputation for cool intrepidity and skill. After the fall of the Russian stronghold, he was made a lieutenant general on the very same day as Generals Vinoy and DeFaily. Many of your military and naval readers will remember that he commanded the French portion of the expedition against Kinburn. During the Italian war he commanded a division in Baraguay d'Hillier's *corps d'armee* and took a leading part in the battle of Magliano. He is best known, however, by his command of the French army in Mexico, a command which exposed him to not a little professional jealousy, and which on his return obtained for him the marshal's baton. It was, however, an unlucky expedition for Marshal Bazaine, for though he lost no reputation as a soldier, yet the tragedy which followed the departure of the French troops, and sundry incidents, magnified by malignity, no doubt, which marked his intercourse with the unfortunate Austrian Archduke, created a marked impression against him; and though a marshal of France, he has been, so to speak, under a cloud ever since. Not that posts of honour and emolument were denied him, but he was under a cloud for all that, and he seems to have felt it very keenly. One of his most bitter assailants (Colonel d'Andlau, in his work, "Metz: Campagne et Negotiations") says in so many words that Marshal Bazaine had been promised an independent command, and that he bitterly complained of what he considered a breach of faith to all who approached him, and considered it as a continuation of the ill-will that had been shown him on his return from Mexico. Colonel d'Andlau says that the discontent he experienced had a great influence upon him, and consequently in the conduct of the military operations down to the fall of Metz. However, on his arrival at Metz, in addition to the 3rd Corps, he was also placed in temporary command of all the troops between the Vosges and the Moselle, viz., the 2nd Corps (General Frossard), the 4th Corps (General L'Amirault), the 5th Corps (General DeFaily), and the reserves of cavalry, artillery, and engineers, forming an aggregate of thirteen divisions of infantry and six of cavalry. This was possibly done to soothe him, but Colonel d'Andlau tells us the measure could not produce any satisfactory result; he was allowed no initiative; has

authority, purely nominal, was barely recognized by the other generals in command of *corps d'armee* who maintained that the Emperor alone was their superior, and continued to correspond directly with his Majesty. He was not even consulted as to the first movement the army was ordered to make on the 23rd of July, and the very next day he received notice by telegraph that the Emperor would be represented at Metz by the Quarter-master General of the army, General Lebœuf. "It was impossible to suppose that a man whose position required at least a show of regard, should be otherwise than hurt at such treatment. He, moreover, showed what his feelings were by leaving Metz within an hour of General Lebœuf's arriving there, instead of waiting to see him." This comes from a writer notoriously biased against Bazaine. We may, therefore, take it to be true. It certainly was hardly to be expected that being, or fancying himself, ill used, he should have interfered, or obtruded advice which would have probably been disregarded, however sound it might have been. Another circumstance occurred very shortly afterwards which was not likely to induce the marshal to depart from his reserve. The Emperor, after wasting a great deal of time, made up his mind to take possession of the valley of the Sarre, and occupy the town of Saarbrück. Marshal Bazaine was informed that he and his *corps d'armee*, with the corps of General Frossard and two of DeFaily's divisions, were to participate in the operation, and that he (Bazaine) was to have the command in chief. He immediately drew up a plan of operations, and laid it before the Emperor on the 1st of August. But, during the night, the Emperor changed his mind and ordered that the operations should be confined to a mere demonstration against Saarbrück, the honours of which were evidently to be reserved for General Frossard. The provisional command in chief conferred on Bazaine was implicitly revoked by the intimation that the Emperor and General Lebœuf would be in the field in person, and give orders, if any were required. Marshal Bazaine, in consequence, abstained from putting in an appearance, and thenceforth confined himself to obeying the orders he received. The week was not over when the French army sustained two defeats, which virtually decided the campaign, and convinced the Emperor that strategy was not his strong point. His favourite general (Frossard) was badly beaten at Spicheren on the very same day that MacMahon's corps was routed at Reichshoffen. This was on the 6th of August. Common sense, common prudence, as well as the rules of war, ought to have commanded the immediate retreat of the Metz army on Chaions to rally the *debris* of MacMahon. But the Emperor could not, apparently, make up his mind to give up his chief command, or to incur the obloquy which the Paris Boulevarders would have heaped upon him had he ordered a timely retreat. The troops were harassed by useless marches and counter-marches on the Nied, and five valuable days were thus wasted, indeed worse than wasted. On the 11th, however, the army was concentrated under the guns of Metz, on the right bank of the river, and on the 12th the Emperor appointed Bazaine to the command in chief, and assigned him as quartermaster-general a man of talent, between whom and the marshal there seemed to be a deadly feud, and on the 13th the marshal took possession of his command.

Before proceeding, however, to that part of the campaign, I must not omit to mention that it is one of the charges against Marshal Bazaine that he allowed Frossard to be crushed at Spicheren, when, by moving up his troops, he might have converted his defeat into victory. It does not come within the scope of this letter to examine whether that charge be true or not; but from what precedes, it is easy to understand that neither Marshal Bazaine nor any of the other commanders would care to interpose unless their aid was invited. Now General Frossard had several times telegraphed to Bazaine that he was "all right." He seemed not to be aware of the serious character of the attack directed against him for it was not until three p.m., that he telegraphed to Bazaine for "one regiment," assuring him that that regiment would be ample, and that he would be able to send it back very soon. It has been said that while the Prussians were attacking, General Frossard was lunching with the Mayor of Forbach, without any idea of his corps being in danger; but the evidence before the court martial will doubtless clear up that and other equally interesting points.

It was on the 12th, as I have said before, that the Emperor appointed Marshal Bazaine commander in chief; but it was not until the 13th that he took possession of his post. The army was then dissatisfied, demoralized and discontented. The troops were harassed by long and purposeless marches and countermarches; the Prussians had effectually placed themselves between Metz and Nancy, and commanded the course of the Moselle. Had the retreat been effected immediately after Spicheren, the railway might have been made useful. But now there were but two directions left open—that of Montmedy and that of Verdun. Orders were immediately given for the army to cross from the right to the left bank of the Moselle, but the Prussians attacked the French on the 14th, and effectually delayed the movement. This battle (which the French call Borny, and the Germans Colomb), is claimed by the French as a success. The fact is, that it gave the bulk of the Prussian army time to cross the Moselle before the French, and precede them on the Verdun road. In his official report on the battle Marshal Bazaine hints that the troops did not keep to their order of march, which would have brought them under cover of the guns of Quenlen, St. Julien and Bellecroix, and thus more effectually checked the German attack. As it was, the troops which had already crossed on to the left bank of the Moselle had to retrace their steps, and thus the whole of the day, which would have been spent in a rapid march to Verdun, was spent in repelling the attacks of the army of General Steinmetz, Marshal Bazaine though claiming Borny as a French victory, had nevertheless the candour to admit that:—

"Il n'en fallait pas moins reconnoître que malgré notre succès le but de l'ennemi avait été en partie atteint—il avait retardé l'exécution de notre mouvement et permis à l'armée du Prince Frédéric Charles de franchir la Moselle sans résistance, et de nous prévenir sur la route de Verdun."

This notion of a "success" is certainly peculiar. The Prussians succeeded in their object, and prevented the French in carrying theirs; but yet Marshal Bazaine will have it that it was a French victory. This is carrying the virtue of not knowing when one is beaten very far indeed. In spite of this delay the troops continued their movement across the river, and occupied the

ground between Gravelotte and Metz by the evening of the 15th. The Emperor spent the night there, and had an interview with the marshal in the morning. The next time they met was at Cassel, in Germany, both being prisoners of war. It is said that Marshal Bazaine did not conceal his satisfaction at the Emperor's departure, leaving him at last his own master; and, according to one who professes to have been an eye witness he expressed that satisfaction, "*dans les termes les moins équivoques.*" Before the day was over he must have regretted that the undivided responsibility fell exclusively on his shoulders. The principal charge against the marshal is precisely his conduct on the 16th of August, the day of the Battle of Rezonville (or Gravelotte), and therefore it is necessary to go into the subject somewhat fully. And, first, it is necessary to remind the reader that there are three roads by which Verdun may be reached from Metz. To the north west there is a road which passes through Briey and leads to Etain; there is another road which leads to Etain through Conflans; and a third road which leads direct to Verdun by Mars-la-Tour and Fresnes; the two last roads join into one at Gravelotte, and so on to Metz, while the two first join at Etain, and so on to Verdun. It is one of the charges against Marshal Bazaine that he did not make use of the Briey road but availed himself solely of the roads *via* Conflans and Mars-la-Tour; and, secondly, that instead of pushing on and attacking the Prussians before they were fully concentrated, he ordered his troops to wait for the third and fourth corps, that had not yet come up, and thus gave the enemy the great advantage of assuming the offensive, which they did with the greatest vigour. It is also made an accusation against Marshal Bazaine that he constantly mistook the objective of the Prussians; he fancied that their great object was to cut him off from Metz, when, as it now clearly appears (it is very easy to be wise after the fact) that their real object was to prevent his gaining possession of the Verdun road. During this battle of Gravelotte the marshal behaved with conspicuous gallantry and admirable coolness. He himself claims Rezonville as a French victory, on the ground that the French retained their positions; and he is charged with great error of judgment in not awaiting himself of his success to renew the attack and force his way through. It is also one of the charges against him that, finding the road *via* Mars-la-Tour held in force by the enemy after the battle, he did not make a flank march and push on to Montmedy, or avail himself of the road *via* Briey. The marshal's answer to this is that he had more than 16,000 men *hors de combat*; that provisions and ammunition ran short; that the troops imperatively required a day's rest; and that a flank march would have exposed him to a disastrous onslaught at the enemy's hands. On this point very full evidence will be given before the court-martial.

After the battle of Rezonville (or Gravelotte) the troops were moved back towards Metz, and positions were assigned them covering the western front of the city from St. Privat on the north, Rozérieulles on the south. In these positions the French were attacked on the 18th, and the loss of the position of Amanvillier, St. Privat, and Ste. Marie-aux-Chenes, effectually deprived them of the Briey road. A grave charge is brought against Marshal Bazaine, that throughout that hard day's fighting he remained on the plateau of Flappeville, and did not even proceed in person to the field

of battle. The evidence on this point is very conflicting, and no doubt will take up a great deal of time. It would be unfair to prejudge the nature of that evidence. To a non-professional mind it appears that neither Rezonville nor St. Privat can be considered anything but great Prussian victories, and they fully account for the subsequent inability of Marshal Bazaine to march on Montmedy, so as to effect a junction with MacMahon's army advancing from Chalons. But this branch of the subject, together with the subsequent attempt at breaking through, and the capitulation, requires to be dealt with in another letter.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

RIDEAU COTTAGE, Ottawa,
Oct. 21, 1873.

Sir,—In the report which you have been good enough to make of a speech delivered on the occasion of the presentation of the prizes to the Battalion of His Excellency's Foot Guards, there is a mistake which I think requires correction, as otherwise it may lead to misconception. It is stated that in the Italian war the Austrians were beaten by the French using a breech-loading rifle—the Chassepot. Now, the French infantry were armed with muzzle-loading rifles at Solferino, the Chassepot not having been issued to them generally until after the English army had received the Snider. In the Danish war the great advantage of breech-loaders became apparent when the Prussians used them against a foreign enemy. They had been previously employed in the revolutionary contests of Germany. The inferiority of the needle gun is, I need scarcely say, relative, *viz.*, in comparison with other breech-loaders. As a military weapon, it was proved at Sadowna to be far superior to the Austrian muzzle-loading rifle.

Trusting that you will kindly give publicity to these corrections.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
H. C. FLETCHER, Lt.-Col.,
Scots Fusilier Guards.

The Russian Government has received information of a series of battles between the Russian troops under Prince Leuchtenberg and the Turcomans. The Russian force was sent to collect the war contribution of 300,000 roubles imposed in the Jurmerden, and consisted of eight companies of infantry, eight hundred cavalry, and several batteries. On the 22nd of July the first serious encounter took place, and on the 25th July the Turcomans, having attacked the Russians, were repulsed with great loss. Two days afterward a sanguinary conflict took place. The Turcomans made a night attack, and a hand-to-hand combat took place, in which they lost 800 men.