

Oddities.

HOOPS AND CRINOLINE.

NOW-A-DAYS, every young lady—and old ladies too, for that matter—looks like a bell, so ample are their skirts, so widely spread, so singular in aspect, that an inexperienced person might imagine the thought of so much stuff in one dress had never occurred to mortal mind before. But look back awhile, beyond the shallow waists and slender petticoats of fifty years ago; behold your grandmothers, or great grandmothers, as the case may be. And what is it that you see? Just the same sort of amplitude in which your wife, your sister, your sweetheart, indulge in this year of grace 1860.



The above engraving is a faithful copy from a fashion book of the last century, and is equal, in the humble opinion of the writer, to anything seen in our own days. Here is a lady in all the full-blown enormity with which the gentler sex delight to encumber themselves, and keep the men at a distance. The waist is dextrously pinched in, so as to oppress the proper action of the lungs; the skirt is ostentatiously spread out, so as to be at once both inconvenient and uncomfortable. Why is this? Why, but that Madame Mode has said it, and it must be worn! Hoops were known in the days of Good Queen Bess, and the satirists of the time derided them in verse more coarse than witty; they figured again in the days of George II., and hooped and corded petticoats are seen in Hogarth's picture, *A Marriage à la Mode*. Hogarth, you remember, clothes his *Venus de Medici* in a circular bell hoop, in his inimitable picture of *Taste in High Life*. Sir Roger de Coverley, describing his family portrait gallery, says: "You see, sir, my great-great grandmother has on the new-fashioned petticoat, except that the modern is fastened at the waist; my grandmother appears as if she stood in a large drum, whereas, the ladies now walk as if they were in a go-cart." Another writer, about the same period, says:—"Nothing can be more unnatural, and consequently less agreeable. When a slender virgin stands upon a basis so exorbitantly wide, she resembles a funnel or figure of no great elegance." A lawyer of the Middle Temple, in the *Spectator*, describes an adventure which happened in a country church upon the frontiers of Cornwall; says he, "As we were in the midst of service, a lady, who is the chief woman of the place, and had passed the winter at London with her husband, entered the congregation in a little head-dress and a hooped petticoat. The people, who were wonderfully startled at such a sight, all of them rose up. In the meantime, the lady of the manor filled the area of the church, and walked up to the pew, with an unspeakable satisfaction, amidst the whispered conjectures and astonishment of the whole congregation."

Thus it is that fashions repeat themselves. Now 'tis a farthingale, now a hoop, now a crinoline; the wits of pen and pencil are set to work ridiculing the monstrous absurdity; but Queen Mode is imperative, and is invulnerable to the keenest shafts. Here is the same thing that excited the caustic humour of Addison and Gay, and the humorous pencil of Hogarth. Here is floating about an ocean of crinoline, or, worse still, bird-cage petticoats, and steel hoops—what can we say of a lady so habited, but what has been said a hundred years ago:

"To conceive how she looks, you must call to your mind The lady you've seen in the lobster confined."

THE CHOICE OF A WIFE.

The Indian sage Aurva, a great authority in matrimonial matters, gives minute directions for the choice of a wife, which every devout Hindoo does well to follow. The girl, he tells us, must be only a third of her husband's age, not very black, not yellow-complexioned, not a cripple, not deformed, not vicious, nor unhealthy, nor of low origin, but one who has been well brought up, and who speaks with propriety. She must not inherit a family malady, nor possess a masculine appearance; must neither speak thick nor thin, nor croak like a raven; must not keep her eyes shut, nor have them wide open; must not have thick ankles, nor dimples in her cheeks, nor a goose skin, nor white nails, nor red eyes, nor fat hands, nor duck-like feet. She must neither be short, nor tall, nor fat, nor thin, but very middling. Her teeth must be close set, and her eyebrows wide apart; finally, her *gait must resemble that of a young elephant!*

THE RIFLE.

WHATEVER may be the grounds for the apprehensions that have originated the present earnest volunteer movement,—the necessity of reviving national animosities, and awakening a taste for military pursuits,—or the expediency of so demonstratively expressing distrust of an ostensibly friendly Power—the impetus having been already given to popular action, it becomes the duty of calm observers to aid in guiding it, so far as they may have the power, in a judicious direction.

We deprecate any rashness that might involve the nation in a war which could be honourably avoided; but we consider that possible contingencies should be wisely contemplated and prudently guarded against. The introduction of the rifle into general use will be advantageous by familiarising the people with the practice of the most perfect of arms, and qualifying them at need, to defend their homes like men; while the youth of England will be furnished with a healthful and manly means of recreation in the open air, that, unlike most other amusements, will be of direct utility, not only to the individual, but to the nation.

From these considerations, we propose furnishing our readers with some general and useful information on this subject, as tersely conveyed as may be consistent with clearness, and illustrated where expedient with diagrams; wherein we shall speak consecutively of the origin of the rifle—the principle of its construction, as distinguished from other firearms—its varieties—how to select and use it—the estimation of heights and distances—the principles of irregular warfare—skirmishing, or light infantry evolutions—the use of the sword bayonet—the equipment and dress of riflemen—and, finally, the Government action as to volunteer corps, with the facilities proffered to them by it.

ORIGIN OF THE RIFLE.

Till recently the rifle has been the distinctive weapon of two countries, similarly distinguished for independence and manliness, but differing greatly in their position with reference to other nations, in topographical character, and in the conditions thereby imposed on warfare.

The Tyrol is a small mountain region, difficult of access from the broken nature of the ground, but in immediate proximity to great military monarchies. The United States is a vast plain of alternate wilds and primeval forests, watered by mighty rivers, and separated from Europe by 3,000 miles of ocean. Both countries were scantily peopled, and dependent for safety on undisciplined levies; but, whether the enemy to be resisted might arrive in a few hours, or after traversing great tracts of sea and land, the defence adopted was, in both cases, the same. That an undisciplined peasantry might contend with success against organised masses, it was useful to develop the intelligence of the individual, and provide him with arms that would admit of his profiting by the accidents of the ground, to destroy the advancing foe in detail, and thus nullify the advantages otherwise derivable from superiority of discipline and mass. The deadly efficiency of the rifle in the hands of the Tyrolese and Americans, against veteran troops, proves the wisdom of its selection.

The discovery of a weapon that has had so important an influence on men, may be said to have been accidental. Though gunpowder had changed the mode of warfare, yet musketry had the drawbacks of being both slow and uncertain; for an archer could discharge a dozen arrows to further distances, than a musketeer, and with greater accuracy, while the musketeer was loading his unwieldy weapon. The means of remedying these defects engaged many

ingenious minds. There is a vague tradition of the use of rifled guns at Hamburg in 1493, but no certainty of their existence until 1567, when a German mechanic thought to facilitate the tardy process of loading, by grooving the gun-barrel in a direction parallel to its axis. Incidentally this contributed to accuracy of fire, by steadying the ball. In the beginning of the seventeenth century, another German, a gunsmith of Nuremberg, conceived the brilliant idea of communicating rotary motion to the ball, by giving the grooves a spiral direction, and casting the ball larger than the bore, that it might be indented by the grooves in loading. Thus the idea of the rifle was completed, though it was yet rude and imperfect in form. Greater accuracy was the consequence of this improvement, but the rapidity of fire was proportionably diminished, and this prevented its general adoption by infantry, to whom rapidity and concentration of fire are primary considerations, however admirably it was adapted to circumstances demanding caution, and admitting of leisurely deliberation, where the combatant selects his own ground, and lies in ambush to take his foe at disadvantage.

Though the theoretical reasons for the accuracy of fire thus secured, were not known for a century afterwards, yet its merits recommended the improved arm for use in the chase, while in the Tyrol and America it was received with peculiar favour. Somewhat similar conditions and necessities rendered it equally valuable to the chamois hunter among the icy pinnacles of the Alps, and to the English colonist amid the American wilds, frequently dependent for food, or security from the savage or the panther, lurking in the forest, on his boldness and dexterity as a marksman.

Various modifications in the construction of the American rifle were gradually introduced, suggested to individual hunters by their experience in the wilderness. The charge of powder was wisely reduced as much as was consistent with the effectiveness of the ball. The piece was lengthened, in the futile idea of thereby increasing the accuracy of the fire, whereas the final direction is received from the muzzle only, the least irregularity in which will cause deflexion. It was rendered heavier to prevent recoil and discomposure of direction by pulling the trigger; and finally, the bore was proportionably diminished, until the ball was of the size of a pea, that the range might be extended; and it is now established that such is the secret of increasing the range. Thus the attention of Americans was exclusively directed to improving the barrel of the rifle.

During the revolutionary war, such was the dexterity of the colonists with this arm, that it made up for any want of mechanical precision in military movements. Wherever artificial or natural advantages admitted of their making a stand, their deadly fire decided the day. Mercenary riflemen were brought from Denmark and Germany, to aid the royal troops, without avail. In the subsequent war of 1812, from the same causes, the Peninsular veterans were similarly foiled by militia, hastily levied, but familiar from boyhood with this formidable weapon. The Tyrolese hunters and herdsmen, in the same way, repelled French invasion during the wars of the revolution, though their rifle was less excellent in construction than the American.

In the course of time special rifle corps were organised in the various European armies, to be employed as skirmishers and videttes; but no improvement was made in the rifle that could render it more generally available in warfare by regular troops until lately. The painful experiences of the English during the Caffir war, and the French in Algeria, led to earnest experiments with a view to improve the efficiency of the rifle; and by modifying the form of the ball rather than of the piece itself, both wonderful accuracy of flight and extension of range have been at length attained; the result of unwearied efforts having been to demonstrate satisfactorily the superiority of conical balls, as offering least resistance to the air they traverse, and approximating in their flight more nearly to the line of sight.

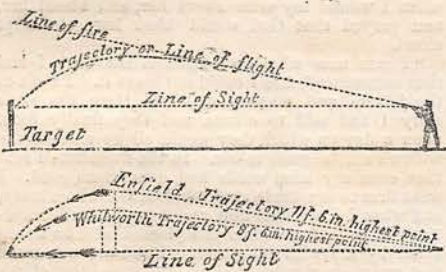
DISTINCTIVE PRINCIPLE OF RIFLE CONSTRUCTION.

Every missile is subjected necessarily to certain natural forces that affect its flight, and missiles projected from fire arms to additional deflections, resulting from defects in their own structure, or in that of the barrel whence they are emitted. The only object in rifling a barrel is to correct the line of flight of the bullet; it does not produce increase of range or velocity. It is the shape of the bullet which, while conducting much to accuracy, tends to produce greater velocity; wider range being the result of narrowing the bore.



THE "SWEEPS" OF FORMER TIMES.

Every missile, whether projected from a gun or from the hand, would pursue the flight once commenced with uniform velocity in the line of fire, were it not retarded by gravity and atmospheric resistance. Of these forces, gravity attracts it to the earth, and the resistance of the air continually reduces its speed. These two distinct motions, the one increasing as the other diminishes, causes it to move in a parabolic curve, termed its *trajectory*, instead of in the line of fire. Hence, a bullet invariably falls below the object at which the piece is directed.



Deviations to the right or left, from the line of sight, are due to defective construction. The spherical form of the old musket ball offered the largest surface of resistance to the air it traversed, and the inequalities of the musket bore caused deflections in its flight. Moreover, as the spherical ball did not fit the bore tightly, when the piece was held horizontally, the force of the explosion drove the ball alternately against the upper and lower sides of the barrel, until it finally left the muzzle—its subsequent direction chiefly depending on the last impulse received, while, at the same time, much of the force exerted was necessarily lost. To reduce this *windage*, as it is termed, without too greatly increasing the friction against the bore, is peculiar to the rifle.

Every cast bullet has certain inequalities of surface and internal structure, in themselves sufficient, through the resistance of the atmosphere, to make it deviate from the line of aim. The rifling of the barrel gives the bullet a rotary action on its axis, and preserves that axis uniformly in the direction of the line of flight; thereby each irregularity in its

structure is successively presented, to be acted on by the retarding forces previously mentioned, during its entire course. The rifle bullet has thus two distinct motions imparted to it on leaving the piece; a progressive one, due to the explosion of the powder, and a spinning one, impressed on it by the spiral groove of the bore.

The counteracting force of gravity on a bullet is in proportion to its mass, but that of the atmospheric resistance, to its diameter and velocity. Hence, as the velocity would be retarded by any increased friction of the bullet against the bore that may be avoided, the inclination, or twist, given to the grooves should not exceed that absolutely needed to produce rotary motion of the bullet, while its form should be such as to offer as little resistance as possible to the air it cleaves.

The elongated rifle bullet satisfies these demands; its form offers least resistance, and is that best adapted to attain the highest velocity, while it reduces *windage* to a minimum.

On the explosion taking place within the rifle, the pressure of the air in front, and of the force behind, so dilate the cylindrical and hinder portion of the bullet, that it adapts itself exactly to the bore, filling the grooves and preventing the loss of any of the power exerted. Thus, the whole force of the powder is concentrated in one direction, while those irregularities of movement are avoided that occur during the passage of a spherical bullet through a smooth bore. Our next number will contain illustrations of three of the Volunteer uniforms, which, for their appearance and suitability, have been highly approved.

(To be continued.)

CHIMNEY SWEEPERS.

"SWEEP! sweep!" Who is there amongst us who does not remember the old-fashioned cry? The younger born may associate that cry with a thick utterance, a stout, short-built fellow with a curious machine under his arm, and a *tout ensemble* of soot, but folks more advanced in life recall something very different in association with this cry of "sweep." Small boys—the smaller the better—covered with soot from their naked feet, or thick, heavy shoes, to their small caps with a brass plate on the front. These are the objects they so well remember in full cry on a sum-

mer's morning in the bright sunshine, or sully the fair snow in the winter time, and shivering in the keen east wind.

These small boys, and boys of larger growth to look after them, were once upon a time common to our London streets—common as the poor Italian organ grinders, and still worse treated by their owners. Chimneys must be swept, otherwise they catch fire and provide an excellent opportunity for the display of parochial vigilance, by the bringing round of the parish engine at a sharp run, the turning on of the water, the calling of the policeman, and the other characteristic features of a chimney on fire in a London street. It generally happens that the fire has been extinguished long before the engine arrives, but beadleom swears in a board room that it has rendered efficient service, and some official person condemns the householder in fine and costs. Serious consequences, indeed, may follow from a chimney on fire. The results may be most disastrous—therefore it becomes everybody to know how a chimney on fire may be extinguished, and here follows a simple but efficacious remedy strongly recommended by the domestic faculty:—Throw some powdered brimstone on the fire in the grate, or ignite some on the hob, and then put a board or something of that sort in the front of the fire-place to prevent the fumes descending into the room. The vapour of the brimstone ascending the chimney will then effectually extinguish the soot on fire. Be cautious also to keep the doors and windows tightly shut. Besides being dangerous and disagreeable, if allowed to accumulate in a chimney, soot is valuable as an article of manure, so that in ridding ourselves of a nuisance we absolutely contribute to the benefit of society in general, and to the profit of that sooty fraternity, the chimney sweeps.

Before the Act passed for the prohibition of climbing boys, there was a vast amount of cruelty exercised over these unfortunate children. A poor, friendless child fell into the hands of a master sweep, and was subjected to his tender mercies; perhaps he was bound 'prentice by the guardians of the poor from some parish workhouse, and a little premium given with him—a sort of bonus for taking him off the parochial hands. He was ill-fed, beaten, ill-clad, ill-lodged, exposed to every kind of inhumanity, his very calling being barbarous in its nature, and its exercise accompanied by ill-usage, such as only the malicious and depraved could invent, but which benevolent house-

is given, and then they should have enough to go through the pot; but carefully throw away every drop that drains through into the pans they stand in. All plants grown in the house should have the full light of the window; the window should be opened in fine weather, and they should be put outside, when there is a fine warm rain, or, in the absence of rain, they should be watered over the foliage to wash off the dust. Occasionally sponging the surface of the leaves of geraniums and other plants with large foliage, is a good plan. The forced plants for London markets and large manufacturing towns, and which look so tempting in March and April, are stocks, geraniums, lilacs, hydrangeas, azalias, deutzias, rhododendrons, fuchsias, epacris, roses, &c., none of which can be looked upon other than temporary beauties, and those are offered at the time when all the pots in your house ought to be filled with blooming bulbs, which will grow and flower anywhere, and, consequently, when you ought not to be in want of any other.

The German Language

CLEARLY TAUGHT AND QUICKLY LEARNT.

LESSON IV.

GERMAN, as we have before observed, is not really difficult for English people, on account of its likeness to their own language; but the grammar of the German language, or the art of speaking German correctly, requires especial attention, because, in many instances, it resembles that of the ancient, rather than of the modern, languages. In English, French, and German, prepositions, such as *of*, *to*, or *from*, are used to express the *case*, or the relation of one thing to another; but to answer the same purpose, in Greek, Latin, and German, the termination of the word is varied. As it is only the German that concerns us at present, we shall proceed to give you instances of German articles, as they are *declined*, or varied, according to their being in the nominative, genitive, dative, or accusative case. The initials only of these cases will be given.

DECLENSION OF ARTICLES.

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE.

	Singular.			Plural. For all three Genders.
	Masc.	Fem.	Neut.	
N.	der	die	das	die, the.
G.	des	der	des	der, of the.
D.	dem	der	dem	den, to, for or from the.
A.	den	die	das	die, the.

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE.

	Masculine.		Feminine.		Neuter.	
	Singular.	Plural.	Singular.	Plural.	Singular.	Plural.
N.	ein	eine	ein	eine	ein	ein
G.	ein-er	einer	ein-er	er	ein-er	er
D.	ein-er	er	ein-er	er	ein-er	er
A.	ein-en	eine	ein-e	e	ein-e	e

We must beg you to bear in mind, that in the vocabulary of the words which we have collected for you, on account of their resemblance to the English, this resemblance will not be evident to you, unless you pronounce the letters according to the rules we have given. Thus, in the word *jahr*, "year," recollect that the *j* has the sound of our "y." You must also remember that, in German words, the final *e* does not blend with the syllable, as it would do in English, but is distinctly pronounced. Thus, *woche*, "week," with other words of the same nature, has two syllables—*wo-che*. The final *e* has a sound between that of our "a" and the "e" in our word "err;" but to give the German *e* the least sound of the *r*, would be a serious fault in pronunciation.

WORDS IN GERMAN RESEMBLING THE CORRESPONDING WORDS IN ENGLISH.

January.	Januar.
February.	Februar.
March.	März.
April.	April.
May.	Mai.
June.	Juni.
July.	Juli.
August.	August.
September.	September.
October.	Oktober.
November.	November.
December.	Dezember.

THE RIFLE.

(Continued from page 109.)
VARIETIES OF RIFLE.

To describe the varieties of rifle produced by modern science neither consists with our plan, nor would be useful to the reader. That an arm should be generally adopted for military purposes, it must combine strength, simplicity, and economy of construction; whereas many of these are costly, complex, and easily deranged. We do not pretend to decide on the comparative merits of these arms in a scientific point of view, but will confine our attention to the *Enfield*, which is that generally adopted by the British army, and issued to volunteer corps—its deadly efficiency having been proved during the late Russian war. The bore has a diameter of .570 of an inch, and is so rifled in three grooves, that the bullet makes half a turn ere leaving it—insuring sufficient rotary motion with little friction. The bullet (a modification of the *Minie*) is cylindrical, ending in a pointed cone, and hollow at the base, which, on explosion, expands, and fills the grooves of the bore. The value of the *Enfield* appears by comparison with the old musket. Whilst that could not be depended on for a greater distance than 60 yards, with this ordinary marksman can kill his enemy at 800, whilst its volleys are efficient against masses at 1,500. Thus its use rendered powerless the former field artillery, which was effective only at 300 yards; since a couple of riflemen can now disable a battery, by picking off its gunners, before it could be brought into action. The shortness and straightness of the *Enfield* stock alone detract from its value.

There are two descriptions of *Enfield* rifle, the only difference in which is the length of the barrel, and the description of bayonet adapted to it—the long *Enfield* having an old-fashioned bayonet attached, and the short *Enfield* having a sword bayonet.

The long *Enfield* rifle, which is that hitherto supplied by Government to volunteers, is as good an arm of that pattern as can be obtained. Every part has been carefully examined separately, before setting up, by the War Office viewers, who ascertain that, as to material and construction, each rifle is up to the standard; which is not the case with those supplied by gunmakers to private persons. According to the leading journal, quantities of inferior materials that have been rejected by the Government authorities are being worked up to meet the present general demand; and therefore it is advisable that the Government rifle should be taken in preference to others.

USE OF THE RIFLE.

Clear apprehension of the principle of the construction of the sights is indispensable to proficiency in using the rifle. The sights of the old-fashioned arms were parallel to the axis of the piece; thus, in aiming point-blank at an object on the same plane, the piece was horizontal, and the ball, from the retarding action of the natural forces previously mentioned, fell below it, as in Fig. 3, in the ratio of 17 inches to 100 yards. The only means to obviate this were to withdraw the sight from the object, and aim, according to circumstances, more or less above it. Now, the sights of a rifle are so constructed that when direct aim is taken through them at an object, the axis of the piece receives the degree of elevation required by the distance, as in Fig. 4, and this constitutes point-blank range with the rifle. The height of the lowest back-sight is such that when direct aim is taken at an object distant 100 yards, that slight depression is given to the butt which throws the bullet sufficiently above the line of sight to reach the mark. With the increased distance of the object, this sliding back-sight receives increased height, so that the fore-sight becomes visible to the marksman only by a corresponding depression of the butt (Fig. 5). The regulation of this back-sight for long ranges is indicated by marks thereon corresponding to the distances.

The habit of aiming correctly, readily, yet deliberately, should first be acquired. The position that the act of aiming will naturally and unconsciously give, is the advance towards the object of the left side, and withdrawal of the right leg; whereby the weight of the body is thrown upon the left. The rifle being raised, and its butt pressed firmly against the muscle of the shoulder, on gently declining the head, so that the cheek rests against the stock, when the left eye is closed the right glances directly along the centre of the barrel, over the sights, towards the mark. Now, on the muzzle being directed at any object, the position of the eye, with relation to the two sights, may involve a slight variation in the flight of the bullet, which will be higher or lower as more or less of the fore-sight is visible through the ordinary back-sight. Thus allowance may be made for the defect observable in some arms, of throwing the bullet higher or lower than intended; but, ordi-

narily, the aim should be taken with the fore-sight half visible through the back-sight, thus—



When the rifle carries high, aim should be taken thus—

When it carries low, aim should be taken thus, with the fore-sight entirely visible—

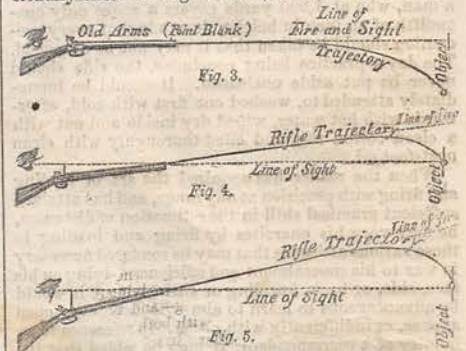


The object aimed at should always be covered by the top of the fore-sight, and the eye should be steadfastly directed on that object, and not on the intermediate sights. The piece should only be cocked when about to raise it.

As it is less easy than the inexperienced may conceive to fire even a percussion cap, without involuntarily closing the eyes, practice should begin with caps, at a target of a foot diameter, marked with a bull's eye, at a distance of ten paces. Having capped and cocked the rifle, it should be raised deliberately to the shoulder; the muzzle elevated above the mark, the left eye closing, and the right steadfastly fixed upon the target; then, holding the breath, and steadily lowering the rifle, as soon as the fore-sight covers the mark, the trigger should be pulled instantaneously, but without any jerk that might discompose the aim. It is important that the finger only should act in moving the trigger—the arm and wrist remaining entirely quiescent. Without the establishment of ready sympathy between the eye and hand, so that the action of the finger, and the perception by the eye of the right line having been attained, be, as it were, simultaneous—no proficiency is possible. In this practice with caps, a lighted candle at ten paces will form the best target, since it can be extinguished only by correct aim.

When the reader can explode caps without flinching of eye or hand, he may commence firing with small charges, gradually increased, until he can use the ordinary *Enfield* cartridge; but it is earnestly recommended that he do not unduly hasten that period in his practice, for he only goes surely who goes slowly. Ball practice should commence with very small charges, at a range of twenty yards, and be continued only at that until moderate certainty of aim is attained; when the distance may be gradually, but slowly, extended to the utmost range of the rifle, which is as far as the eye can distinguish.

Supposing the reader to be supplied with *Enfield* cartridges (which should always be used in preference—as least cumbersome, and favouring rapidity of fire), he should be observant, in loading, to withdraw the ramrod the instant he feels that the bullet has reached the powder, since its explosive force will be greatest when the grains are left uncrushed. Uselessly repeated blows from the ramrod will also be likely to injure the point of the bullet, which would interfere with its flight. When cartridges are not used, and the flask is preferred, the charge should always be the same; a brass charger being employed, slightly heaped, and shaken each time, so that uniformity of measure may be maintained. The powder should be also occasionally sifted through muslin, to clear it from dust.



Some few minor points may be mentioned that should always be observed with reference to the use of arms. Never point a piece in jest at any one, under any circumstances. In uncocking the hammer should be allowed to descend beyond half-cock towards the nipple, and then raised to half-cock—its reaching which will be shown by the clicking sound. It is prudent rather to carry loaded arms at full cock than with the hammer down on the cap, since any accidental jar might then explode the piece. Never, however, cock till about to fire. In aiming at a moving object, allowance should be made for its motion ere the shot can traverse the interval, according to circumstances. When the sun-light glances on the sight or barrel of the rifle from one side, there is an unconscious tendency to deflect it unduly in the op-

ADOPTED UNIFORMS OF THREE OF THE VOLUNTEER RIFLE CORPS.



LORD ELCHO.

LONDON RIFLE CORPS.

LORD RADSTOCK.

posite direction, which should be guarded against. If the wind blows across the line of fire, the bullets will be materially deflected; its influence and direction should therefore always be taken into consideration, since the delicacy of aim requisite to hit a man, who at 1,000 yards covers a space only one-twelfth of an inch in height, demands that every precaution should be taken that it may not be deranged. The day's practice being concluded, the rifle should never be put aside uncleaned. It should be immediately attended to, washed out first with cold, afterwards with hot water, wiped dry inside and out with a clean cotton rag, and oiled thoroughly with clean neatfoot oil.

When the reader has acquired the art of loading and firing with precision at any range, and has attained sufficient practical skill in the estimation of distances, he may vary his exercises by firing and loading in those various attitudes that may be rendered necessary in war to his concealment and efficiency—lying on his face, side, or back, kneeling or sitting—and it would be advantageous to learn to aim with both eyes open at once, or indifferently with either. Inference to an inquiry of a correspondent, it may be added that the rifle should never be degraded into a small-shot gun.

ESTIMATION OF DISTANCES.

Readiness in judging correctly of distances is of primary import to a rifleman, since his life may depend on the rapidity and accuracy of his fire. Supposing him placed in an unfamiliar region, under the fire of a field-piece, how is he to estimate so nicely the intervening distance that he may pick off the artilleryman before being discovered? However rapid and apparently intuitive seems to be our conclusion as to the position or size of objects occurring to our vision, a mental process is really gone through, wherein the unknown quantity is estimated by unconscious comparison with some thing known. Trigonometry does no more.

The knowledge that the average height of man is five feet eight inches, furnishes the rifleman with a

standard whereby to judge of the elevation required by the rifle at different ranges. This standard subtends a varying angle and different distances to the eye; and the eye may be educated to estimate it as correctly as if the angle were measured by a sextant.

In the Musketry School at Hythe a number of soldiers, of similar height and equipment, being placed at regular intervals in a line, the pupil is required to note carefully the distinction between the impressions produced by a similar object at varying distance; to observe at what distance he can discern clearly the features, the buttons, and other details of the dress or equipment, and when one by one these become indistinct. Having firmly established these points in his mind, according to the extent of his individual vision, so as to associate a certain appearance with a known distance, he is taught to estimate the position of a man at an accidental and yet unknown distance. The correctness of his judgment being afterward tested by direct measurement. This system might be pursued beneficially by the reader in his private practice.

The use of instruments for this purpose is, of course, impossible in the field, beyond a pocket sextant—for the use of which rules would be superfluous. A good way of estimating distance is by sound, which travels at the rate of 1,100 feet per second, in calm and temperate weather. Its mean rate may be taken at 370 yards per second, though allowance must be made for the direction of the wind and the temperature. For ordinary purposes, it is sufficient to multiply the time by 1,100, to obtain the intervening distance—e.g., the interval observed between the flash and report of a distant rifle being two-and-a-half seconds, $1,100 \times 2\frac{1}{2} = 2,750$ feet, or 917 yards. Sound moves over water nearly twice the distance that it will over land, and its rate increases half a foot with each degree above freezing point.

DRESS AND EQUIPMENT.

As concealment is of primary importance to riflemen, whose efficiency is frequently dependent thereon.

and as this is in a great measure a matter of dress, the selection of uniform appropriate to their needs demands mature consideration. It should be loose and easy, so as not to embarrass the movements. As to the trowsers and great-coat, Lord Elcho suggests peg-tops, which, when drawn up as far as the bottom of the calf, and inclosed in a canvass or leather legging, have all the appearance and comfort of knickerbockers, with this advantage, that a man can wear them when engaged at his business as trowsers, putting on the legging only when he goes to drill, or in the field. The great-coat has a hood, which, when not required as a cover for the head, lies on the shoulders like a cape. The colour, also, should be a neutral one that becomes soonest indistinct to the eye, so that the wearer cannot be easily distinguished from the ground on which he lies. Major-General Hay on one occasion requested several members of the volunteer rifle corps dressed in the uniform of their respective corps, to form in line and march 400 yards in advance from him upon the shingle. While the green uniforms stood out sharply-defined dark objects against the horizon, the grey uniform worn by Lord Elcho was scarcely distinguishable from surrounding objects, and faded away vaguely into space. The green uniform had, however, certain advantages, from its indistinctness amid foliage and cultivated country. The cost of the grey uniform of Lord Elcho's pattern was only £2, a consideration of some import when treating of attiring a large popular force. The cheapness of this colour, its lesser liability to be soiled, and its peculiar adaptedness to skirmishing requirements, would combine to recommend the general adoption of a similar dress for volunteer corps. Whatever the respective merits of the uniforms contending for favour, all must recognise the advantages that will follow the general adoption of a single one by this national force, as conducive both to efficiency in the field and the convenience of its members.

(To be concluded in our next.)

plenty, if you know where to prick for them; for that matter, it's my opinion, Snaffle wouldn't have made no bones of having one killed ready if he could not light on a corpse of a size and cut and colour to pass for he. Well, he'd plenty o' money in hand—he was known to have twenty thousand pounds when he wrote all those fine farewell letters—not one penny o' that money was accounted for—not one pound ever turned up."

Harry shuddered, as he thought that some of it had been perhaps wrung out of his poor father's pocket by some pretence or other.

"Well, of course, with twenty thousand pounds, and at least one accomplice, if not more, what was to hinder him from playing off the trick he'd long been meditating, eh? I've no doubt he's now in 'Merica or Australy, living like a fighting cock on that 'ere money, and laughing in his sleeve at John Bull and all his victims. Oh, I knows a deal—master and he were hand and glove; he helped to get master out of his mother's hands, and launched on London life; he put master up to 'biling' and the like; but it's I have got him nabbed, in return for many compliments in the shape of kicks and cuffs. However, he's safe, so I'll make a night of it.

"We went go home till morning,
Till daylight does appear,"

he sung in a voice stentorian when compared with his tiny body, and away he drove.

(To be continued.)

THE RIFLE.

(Concluded from page 120.)

PRINCIPLES OF IRREGULAR WARFARE.

REGULAR, as distinguished from irregular, warfare, is the policy of an aggressor. Time becomes of importance, from economical considerations; for regular warfare demands large forces, not only for direct attack, but also to maintain the communication with that base of operations whence munitions and reinforcements are to be drawn; therefore, it aims at disabling its enemy by a rapid and deadly blow. Thus, the vital principle of regular warfare is determinate action in a single direction, that the enemy may be overpowered by concentrated effort and preponderance of force.

The tactical dispositions to this end are effected by unity and rapidity of action among the several masses into which the line may be broken to facilitate its movements, and those demand discipline and aggregation. On these entirely depend the efficiency of troops. Paradoxical as it may appear, a grave truth was enunciated by the German writer who asserted that the timidity of the soldier is the secret of modern tactics; since individual safety consists only with the continued cohesion of the mass. Destroy its aggregation, and the units become powerless; for its might resulted from the concentration of its fire. And when once broken, what avails individual bravery to those who have been sedulously drilled into forgetfulness of their personality—whose arms and discipline are effective only in line, and who, therefore, singly, are not superior to any other brave man with arms in his hand which he knows how to use?

Irregular warfare, on the contrary—the policy of the defensive—is rather desirous of protracting hostilities, for the purpose of exhausting its foe. It admits of indefinite extension of the force waging it, recoils from immediate collision, and exposes no mass to attack; but, availing itself of the natural or artificial advantages of the ground wherewith it is familiar, while harassing the movements of the foe, and interrupting his communications, by incessant desultory hostilities along his line, in front and rear, neutralises a superiority of force that can never be brought into action, or forces him to relinquish that very discipline and aggregation wherein his strength chiefly consisted, in the effort to crush so ubiquitous and restless a foe.

Now, warfare of this description, by isolating the combatant, and making him exclusively dependent on his own skill and courage, instead of on the momentum and support of the mass, necessarily tends to develop in a high degree the intelligence, caution, celerity, and secrecy of movement demanded by the particular circumstances. The rifle is emphatically the weapon required by one thus combating against an enemy superior in force and discipline; and the efficiency of the combatant will depend on his proficiency in its use, and his judgment in the selection of cover to conceal his position and mask his movements. Sir W. Napier asserts that the art of hiding behind trees and other accidental covers, is the very essence of irregular warfare. The battle, as between irregulars and troops, will depend as much

on aptitude at concealment and secrecy as on courage; for, as the movements of the enemy will necessarily be on the main road, whereby artillery and munitions can be transported, the object of the irregular combatant will be to find cover from whence to disturb him and destroy his force in detail.

The immediate object of most irregular warfare is the defence of the native land. Though professional soldiers may speak contemptuously of it, as though wisdom and courage were the exclusive property of those who make a trade of war, yet the efficiency of such warfare, as against regular troops, is established by the history of the past. Standing armies and fleets do not constitute a sufficient defence of nations. A mere artificial organisation, which may be destroyed by the fortune of war, or by disaffection, does not secure a nation against the rapacity of its neighbours. Its only true defence is in the manliness and military spirit of the people in general. Provided that exists, there can be no doubt that, when the occasion demands it, they will suffice to vindicate the honour and independence of the nation. All history teaches that, provided courage and acquaintance with the use of arms exist among a people, it is very easy to engraft upon it that discipline necessary to fit it for regular warfare. Proficiency in the use of arms is the most difficult thing to teach a soldier, and the most important part of his trade. Many who have been soldiers all their lives never acquire it, and the rapidity of the attainment of discipline is in a direct ratio to the individual intelligence; so that even that advantage is on the side of those skilled in irregular warfare. To that end the nature of our country furnishes every facility. If the excellent roads are to be considered as favouring the military movements of an invader, according to Sir John Burgoyne, it should not be forgotten that they are equally advantageous to the invaded; and that the hedges skirting them are not more adapted to mask the movements of the invaders, than to afford facilities for their extermination. The intricate fences, and broken character of the ground generally, is precisely that most favourable to irregular attacks, and least admitting of organised pursuit. Direct conflict with a superior force, and higher discipline, would be, of course, most unwise, since thereby all the advantages peculiar to the system of irregular warfare would be necessarily relinquished.

SKIRMISHING, OR LIGHT INFANTRY EVOLUTIONS.

The efficiency of irregular warfare against disciplined masses is greatly increased when some system is concerted in the extended line of action, so that each combatant, while free to exercise his judgment according to exigencies, has his courage guided in that direction which may be most conducive to the general design of operations, giving to him, in addition to the confidence derived from his own skill in the use of arms, that firmness due to reliance on the immediate support of others. To supply this is the object of the light infantry evolutions. The system of light infantry drill is calculated to place the combatants in their proper position with relation to each other at the fitting moment, and accustom them to act against the enemy in concert at a given signal, so that, while retaining the extension, celerity, and secrecy of movement peculiar to irregular warfare, they may also possess the unity of action of disciplined troops.

The evolutions are of extreme simplicity, and aim exclusively at the extension in open order, or the condensation of skirmishers, in effecting which, while every combatant retains freedom of individual action, the whole are enabled to act together more effectually against their enemy, and with greater safety to



EXTENSION OF 28 RIFLES FROM 1ST POSITION.

themselves. Supposing that thirty riflemen are assembled at one point in the vicinity of the road by which an enemy is advancing in force, as their attacking in mass would uselessly draw a fatal artillery fire, at the fitting moment they separate in the desired direction, according to pre-arranged system. The small body of men, previously in close order, unfolds like a fan, each man leaving the

point of assembly in a different direction, and increasing his distance from those on his right and left in proportion as he advances, until the range is reached from which the enemy may be best assailed, when each rifleman is free to act according to his discretion. This advance may be made in single line or in a double one (Fig. 6); and the retreat, at the sound of the bugle, on the reserve—when the original aggregated formation is resumed—is conducted on the same principles.

Skirmishers, whether advancing or retiring, in single or in double line, may keep up a fire on the enemy while yet in motion, and it is as important a part of the drill to acquire facility in loading and firing under those circumstances, as to act in concert with the body. The object of advancing or retiring in two ranks is to allow of a continuous fire—each line alternately loading and advancing or retiring,



RALLY ON THE RESERVE TO RESIST CAVALRY CHARGE.

while the other halts and fires. The object of rallying or re-assembling in mass is to resist cavalry attacks by the bayonet (Fig. 7). It is of primary importance that the skirmisher should know how—when the body to which he belongs is extended—to avail himself of cover, so as to escape observation, and yet retain efficient use of his arms. He should also recollect that all unnecessary exposure of himself to fire is culpable rashness, not bravery, and quite foreign to the principles of irregular warfare, of which the object is to effect the utmost possible injury to the enemy, consistent with the least loss to the individual combatants. Therefore, there is no dishonour in shunning an open conflict wherein all the advantages would be on the side of disciplined soldiery. The effect also of persistence in such cautious operations is to irritate the enemy until, by abandoning his aggregate system in the design of crushing the crowd of unseen assailants, he exposes himself to increased losses.

THE SWORD BAYONET.

There are many contingencies to which a rifleman will be liable in which it is important that he should be provided with somewhat on which he may depend for protection, besides his rifle—which he may not be able to reload. Now, whatever its efficiency in line, no more useless weapon can be conceived of, singly, than the common bayonet. It is valueless, except when fixed on the firelock, and there can only be used to thrust or parry with, and a very awkward and clumsy weapon it is, even for those purposes. The sword bayonet to be used with the short Enfield rifle, different from that issued by Government, is not only a very formidable weapon in the hand, at close quarters—somewhat similar to the old Roman falchion—applicable either to cut or thrust, but, when fixed on the piece, is an efficient protection against the charge of a dragoon, since its length prevents near approach, while its form enables the rifleman either to parry a sabre cut, or to deliver a sweeping blow under or over the guard of the assailant. The mere possession of such a weapon will inspire the volunteer soldier with confidence, and though perfect mastery of it requires long practice, yet a brave man may be relied on to make a good use of it in the hour of need.

GOVERNMENT ACTION WITH REFERENCE TO VOLUNTEER CORPS.

When lately the foreign relations of the country assumed so menacing an aspect, while at the same time a crisis in colonial affairs absorbed so large a proportion of the national armaments that the defenceless condition of the country invited aggression—the thoughts of all men recurred to former periods, when, notwithstanding the drain upon the national resources consequent on long wars, half a million of men were in arms to defend the integrity of the soil. The demand was general: "Wherefore should this realm be subjected to these continual apprehensions of invasion, from the smallness of its standing forces, when the

crease in incidents and horror as it passed from lip to lip. Some spoke of wild shrieks, heard at night, issuing from Aurora Proudfoot's room; some of a dark mystery, known only to old Keziah Crowe—once nurse at the Hall, and subsequently village midwife at Sunnydale—of a pool of blood and traces of a struggle down by the river, in the copse, near the Fishing House, and of the dead body of a new-born infant, found by old Tim Trail, the game-keeper; but all these were wild legends, which no one affirmed, though all believed; the only thing quite certain was, that for some years Aurora Proudfoot, although resident at the Hall, was never seen—as she had before been—on horseback or on foot—nor yet in the village or at church; that Keziah Crowe was in constant attendance on her, and that it was generally believed that the unhappy young lady was in close confinement, and afflicted alternately with raving madness and intense melancholy; while Gentleman Hazeldean, after a severe illness, ending in brain fever, had left Newtown, and had gone to live almost entirely in London; where, after his father's death, he had embarked the six thousand pounds he had inherited in a joint-stock banking company and other speculations, and was said to be making a princely fortune, and living like a prince too. But to return to our hay-making.

The long sunny day was over. Many a pretty lass who began that hay harvest fair as Phillis, the rose and lily contending on her merry face, was a nut-brown maid before the stacks were thatched; and if the summer breeze blew aside the light folds of her modest kerchief—as she raked up the straggling sprays of grass—

That sportive toil but served to show
Short glimpses of a breast of snow;

the rich ripe sun-burn suddenly ending with its red-brown tint on the lily white that had been shaded from the sun.

CHAPTER XXV.

Or if the earlier season lead
To the tan'd haycock in the mead.

MILTON'S *L'Allegro*.

FARMER HAZELDEAN always feasted his hay-makers, male and female, liberally, when the hay harvest was finished.

Neither he nor any member of his family (save Gentleman Hazeldean) ever touched anything fermented or distilled, for Farmer Hazeldean had been among the first to listen to the arguments of the great temperance reformers, and though their tenets were but coldly received at first in the agricultural districts, his precepts and example made them popular at Greenfields, and many of his men followed in his steps; to such he gave the money the beer drinkers spent in liquor, at the same time providing them gratis with ample stores of other refreshing beverages.

Of course, among the many men he employed there were some who preferred their beer, or, worse still, some evil spirit—under the name of gin, whisky, rum, or brandy—to the well-being and comfort of their families, the happiness and love of their wives, the advancement of their children. There were even—in spite of the example of Farmer Hazeldean and his family—some drunkards at Greenfields, but the influence of the family, endearing as they were, had partly reformed some, completely cured others. There were only a few inveterate sots, who on this festival day did not repair to the tempting repast spread for them on the grass—where refreshing beverages, fruit, and cakes of all kinds were gladly offered to any who were resolved, in spite of the entreaties, the jeers, and sneers of the beer and spirit drinkers, to claim their beer money, and accept the farmer's hospitality. Among the worst of those obstinate toppers were two men, whom "Madam" and "Missus" had tried hard to reform—one called Dick of the Dark, because his father's cottage was in a dark, gloomy ravine—and the other, Joking Jem, because he made a jest of everything; they had, after every effort had been made to reclaim them, given themselves up to drinking habits; and on this very day were lying dead drunk under a hedge, and, when they came to themselves, were dismissed the farmer's service.

Such as, on the contrary, accepted Farmer Hazeldean's kindness, were seated on the fresh-cut grass, under a huge oak.

Men with their proud, contented, loving wives, and happy, duteous children, all enjoying intensely, after the heat and labours of the day, the rest, the cool shade, and the wholesome refreshments provided, and all was of the very best—what a contrast they formed, sitting so lovingly by their wives or sweet-hearts' sides, pleased with themselves and with each other, all full of love and confidence, to the excited,

boasting, quarrelsome, maudlin frequenters of "The Chequers."

There they soon guzzled away the fruits of their labour; there their wretched wives and starving, ill-clad children, followed them, at the risk of their lives, to endeavour to induce them to go home; and there imprecations and blows were the share of the women whom they had sworn to love and cherish, and threats and curses were the portion of the weeping little ones.

Farmer Hazeldean, with his aged mother, his wife, his brother, Gentleman Hazeldean, the two boys, Harry and Sim, and little Primrose, and two guests, sate by themselves at the upper end of the field under a fragrant hedge, where the trees and bushes were festooned with honeysuckle and wild roses.

A snow-white cloth was spread before them, and on it were many excellent things prepared by old Mrs. Hazeldean, the farmer's mother—"Madam," as the country people called her, on account of her birth; but who, though of the house of Seymour, when left penniless and alone by her father, the Rev. Oscar Seymour, grandson of a peer, had accepted Farmer Hazeldean, and had made the best farmer's wife in the county. She, though at the time of this hay-making not very far from eighty (for she was thirty-five when she married), had all her faculties unimpaired, and her virtues too. She was very straight and stately; her silver hair rolled back over a cushion in the old style, and a Brussels "head," and pinners, which had been her mother's, suiting well the style of her countenance, and the advanced age of the wearer.

There was a curious mixture in "Madam Hazeldean" of delicate aristocracy of feature, form, and manner, and of the homeliness and simplicity of a farmer's wife. She had all the virtues of both races, the lofty and the lowly; and every one paid her that respect, which she was much too meek and modest to have exacted. She loved her son's wife, a simple, high-principled woman, only daughter of a neighbouring farmer, but who had brought five thousand pounds as her marriage portion. Insensibly, Madam Hazeldean refined the mind, enlarged the sympathies, and polished the manners of her daughter-in-law, but never once made her feel ashamed of her ignorance or rustic manners.

Mrs. Hazeldean loved Madam Hazeldean with all her good, warm, country heart. In everything she consulted her, followed her advice, and made her slightest wish a law.

The children did the same; they all loved and revered their grandmother. They had an instinctive sense of her superiority, and they delighted to listen to tales she used to tell of the St. Maurs or Seymours of former days—how they obeyed their God, and served their king; how true in love, how firm in faith; how just in thought and exact in word they were—how they gave to the poor, and denied themselves—how they fought in Palestine for the cross, and in the middle ages for the crown. And as she wove little incidents suited to their tender years into these family histories, she took care to point out, that it was rather a shame than a glory to be sprung from such men, unless in the state to which God had called them, they practised the same piety, bravery, truth, and love.

Under Madam's auspices, there was a spirit of piety, politeness, and self-control cultivated at Greenfields, not to be found in any other farmhouse. Madam had her arm-chair in the large chimney-corner in winter, and her little table, on which were her Bible, her Prayer-book, and Jeremy Taylor's "Living and Dying," "The Whole Duty of Man," and Cowper's Poems, a basketful of socks and stockings she darned beautifully for the whole family, her knitting and her plain work, her receipt-book and her writing-case; and, in the summer, this table was moved to an arbour draped with roses, honeysuckles, and clematis, where she loved to sit; and, whether in the single nook or the arbour, the children clustered around her, and were never so happy as when they were with "darling granny."

She taught them to pray, to read, to sing hymns, and to do their duty, both towards God and man.

"The world forgetting, by the world forgot," she had never repented the match which had made her fine relatives—who had never done her any service before, having cut her father, the Rev. Oscar Seymour, for an improvident love-match with a penniless cousin—ignore her very existence. Among them she would have been a despised, unloved nobody. At Greenfields, she was revered, cherished, and tenderly beloved; an authority and referee on all points, and with but one source of anxiety, and that was, the showy, but, in her wisdom, she feared, hollow, prosperity of her favourite son, Seymour—alias! Gentleman Hazeldean—who was named after

her family, and had inherited, as we have said, the same beauty of form and face which had not descended to her.

Nothing could exceed her anger and scorn of Squire Proudfoot, whom she looked upon as inferior in station (and so he was, in comparison to herself), or her indignation at his being driven from the Hall, lest Aurora should become attached to him. She forgot that though she was a Seymour he was a Hazeldean, and, as such, not equal in family to herself. She tried to rouse his pride, and hoped she had succeeded, when after his severe illness he seldom appeared at Sunnydale, and the name of Aurora Proudfoot was never mentioned. And now they are all assembled under the hedge: "Madam," Farmer, and Gentleman Hazeldean, and Mrs. Hazeldean, two pretty girls from a neighbouring farm, the Misses Trupp (lasses wi' tochers, and merry, handsome girls, too), the children, watched by "Old Crowe" and pretty Mercy,—the table-cloth spread on the grass, and covered with the triumphs of Madam and Mrs. Hazeldean.

There was first-rate tea and coffee, brown and white bread, and cakes of every variety, incomparable for excellence; a ham that might have tempted an epicure, and such ducks and green peas, tongue and chicken, cream and butter; bowls of delicious strawberries, fresh gathered, and scenting the air. Nothing was wanting, even in the opinion of the fastidious Gentleman Hazeldean, but iced champagne, and he had a couple of bottles of his favourite beverage concealed in the reeds of the brook close by.

(To be continued.)

ABSTRACT OF REGULATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER CORPS.

OFFERS to form a volunteer corps must be made in the first place to the Lord Lieutenant of the county. Before sanctioning its formation, the Secretary of War will require that safe places for practice, of a range not less than 200 yards, be obtained, and that the security of the arms to be issued be properly provided for. The regulations for the discipline of the corps, when not subject to martial law under the Act of 44 Geo. III., must be approved by the Secretary of War, and will then be binding on the members, the penalties laid down therein being recoverable by law.

The organisation of all corps will be systematic, and according to a fixed standard; the strength of an artillery company, not exceeding 80 effectives, one captain, one first and one second lieutenant; that of a rifle company not exceeding 100 effectives, one captain, one lieutenant, and one ensign. Where the material of an entire company does not exist, the strength of the corps raised must have a certain fixed proportion to the company. Where denser population admits of a larger force being raised, a certain number of companies, associated from motives of economy and convenience, may be formed into a battalion, provided with the customary proportion of field officers.

The election of officers by the several corps will not be recognised; they must be nominated by the Lord Lieutenant of the county. All corps once organised are liable to military service in case of invasion, or other contingencies incident thereto, when they will be subject to martial law, the members being entitled to the same pay, allowances, pensions, and privileges as the regular forces. During such actual service volunteers cannot leave their corps, but may at other times on giving 14 days' notice. Effectives, *i. e.*, those who have attended 24 days' drill during the year, are exempted from serving in the militia. The property of a corps is legally vested in its commander. Corps are subject to periodical inspection by the military authorities. The uniforms and equipments of corps must be approved by the Lord Lieutenant. Simplicity and uniformity therein are specially recommended. The admission of honorary members to corps is allowed. Artillery will take precedence of rifle corps, and in the entire force precedence will depend on the order of primary formation. Officers will rank according to the dates of their respective commissions.

On the sea coast it is preferable that artillery corps should be formed. These will not have small arms, *i. e.*, firearms, but be provided with waist-belts for side arms. Where batteries exist, they will be drilled by instructors from the regular army; and, when sufficiently informed, attached permanently to guns for service on occasion. Where batteries do not exist at points that Government may consider eligible, on the volunteers erecting earthworks for their reception, guns will be provided for practice, with the necessary ammunition.

Rifle corps must provide their personal equipments, of the regulation pattern, at their private expense.

A proportion of arms, before mentioned, will be furnished by Government; and ammunition, at a certain rate per man, at cost price. As, in the event of their being called into active service, the rifle corps will be exclusively armed with that description of rifle used generally by the army; and as only ammunition adapted to the gauge of those arms will at any time be issued, it is advisable that those arms provided by the corps should not exceed .570 of an inch in bore. Requisitions for ammunition will be made on the Secretary of War; and those periodical returns, enjoined by military usage, of the state and discipline of corps, will be rendered to the Lord Lieutenant.

Each rifle company will be entitled to receive instruction for three months, from two sergeants of militia, in the usual drills. These instructors are to be remunerated for their services. When corps have attained sufficient acquaintance with drill and dexterity in the use of arms to enter on the nicer practice of musketry, instructors for that purpose will be similarly furnished on the same conditions. Two members of each corps are permitted to attend the School of Musketry at Hythe, at their own expense, to qualify them to instruct their respective companies. Commissioned officers are also permitted to be temporarily attached to the royal army, or the militia, for the like purpose. That the same principles of drill and instruction may be established in the volunteer force that are enforced in the army, it is recommended that a manual, published by Clowes and Son, 14, Charing Cross, should be generally used.

It is enjoined, in conclusion, that time should not be misapplied in attempting to drill or organise rifle volunteers like troops of the line, but rather that the force should acquire proficiency in the use of its particular arms, so as to act at need as an efficient auxiliary to the regular army—the only character whereof it may consistently aspire.

THE LAWYER OUTFDONE.

SIGNOR DANDINI was a foreign refugee, living in the neighbourhood of Leicester-square. We cannot give any more precise account of his whereabouts, as the signor's address had always been kept a most profound secret—several of his creditors, in fact, being most anxious to penetrate the mystery. The signor picked up a living by translating documents from foreign languages for different houses in the city. One day a letter arrived, addressed to the signor, at one of these houses, stating that if he would call on the next Thursday, at two o'clock, at the offices of Messrs. Skinnum and Eatum, solicitors, of ——— street, they would be happy to arrange with him about a translation which would probably bring him in a pretty considerable sum. The signor was in a dilemma. The pretty considerable sum would be most acceptable, of course; but then he had strong objections to throwing himself in the way of unknown solicitors. However, at the time appointed, a foreign-looking individual presented himself at the office of Messrs. S. and E., and handed in the letter addressed by that highly respectable firm to Signor Dandini.

"I have received this letter," said he, with a strong German accent.

"Ah, to be sure," said Skinnum, the principal partner, who happened to be present, "Signor Dandini?"

The foreign-looking individual bowed, without speaking.

"Ah, my dear sir," continued Skinnum, smiling, "the fact is I am sorry we have been compelled to have recourse to a little stratagem, but not knowing your address, we had no other means of getting at you—I have to serve you with this writ!"

The foreign-looking individual did not seem in the least surprised. He answered—

"Hah, yes, mein dear sir. But we have had recourse to one little stratagem too. I am not Dandini. I am one friend of his. He was afraid of this—so asked me to come to see about your letter. Good morning, mein dear sir."

The foreign-looking individual left the office, and Messrs. Skinnum and Eatum confessed they had been "done."

POST-OFFICE SAVINGS-BANKS.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, in words pregnant with wisdom, has remarked:—"The only true secret of assisting the poor is to make them agents in bettering their own condition." Long has this principle been allowed to lay dormant; but the present age is witnessing a gradual recognition of its inestimable value. More widely still will it have to be

evoked before it arrests that tide of improvidence which keeps its countless victims in worse than Egyptian bondage. Where improvidence reigns, poverty, hunger, and utter want, too often follow in its train. Improvidence costs the industrious classes of this realm some millions of money per annum, and, if it could be banished, their pockets would be enriched by as many millions as are now wantonly lost. The good work has begun, and, amongst kindred institutions, the savings-bank holds a foremost place, as rendering invaluable aid. In our opinion, to have a deposit with a savings-bank should be the earnest endeavour of every artisan and labourer in the three kingdoms. "The glorious privilege of being independent," especially in advanced life, is worthy of a long and noble struggle. But, as gold may be bought too dear, so the savings-bank may, in many instances, be at such a distance from working men, that, to become depositors, would involve a loss rather than a profit. In many hundreds of populous localities such is the very condition; and fifteen counties in the United Kingdom are entirely without savings-banks. We rejoice that a plan to remedy this great social anomaly is now under public consideration. Mr. Charles W. Sikes, of the Huddersfield Banking Company, has for some years interested himself in the progress of savings-banks. In 1850 he addressed a letter to Edward Baines, Esq., warmly advocating penny savings-banks. He afterwards published that admirable address to working men, "Good Times; or, the Savings-Bank and the Fireside."

We here propose to give an outline of the plan of post-office savings-banks as embodied in his letter (recently published as a very small pamphlet) to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The various statistics quoted by Mr. Sikes are most interesting. He reviews a period of twelve years, and, comparing the exports of 1846 with those of 1858, finds that the declared value has increased nearly 100 per cent.; and, inferring that there must have been a corresponding increase in the relative aggregate amount disbursed in wages, he asks, if that increased amount of wages is wisely administered by its recipients? As one test, Mr. Sikes refers to that bank of the people—the savings-bank; but the Parliamentary return for the years mentioned furnish an unfavourable reply.

In 1846 the aggregate receipts of all the savings-banks in the United Kingdom were £7,300,367. In 1858 they were £7,901,925, being a progress of only 7½ per cent. in twelve years! Mr. Sikes estimates the income of the working classes of the United Kingdom as probably now reaching £170,000,000 per annum; but especially guards against their being unduly reproached for improvidence, when, of the 597 existing savings-banks, about fifty are open for only four hours monthly; and 262 for only one to two hours per week. Such is the effect of these limited hours, and other restrictions, that there are 331 savings-banks where receipts from depositors average about a dozen per week!

Another branch of the public service presents very different statistics. Under the guidance of him whose name is now a household word, the post-office has had an unrivalled career of prosperity, and its money-order department shares in the progress. Within the twelve years, 1846 to 1858, the money-orders issued have increased 79 per cent. in amount. In 1846 the receipts of all savings-banks exceeded the total amount of money-orders issued by £229,311.

In 1858 the money-orders issued that year exceeded the receipts of all savings-banks by £4,760,180. The contrast is in some degree explained by the circumstance that, during the past twelve years money-order offices have increased 83 per annum; savings-banks about 2½. In England, in 1856, the county of Berks had the highest relative number of savings-banks for its population in 1851—one for each 16,899 persons. Lancaster had the lowest number—one bank for each 67,711 persons. The results are very instructive. In 1856 the savings-banks of Berks had £2,479 accumulated for each 1,000 persons; Lancaster only £1,562. Mr. Sikes refers to the magnificent sum remitted to Ireland, in aid of friends and families, by emigrants to the United States, and to the signal success which attended the extension of the money-order system to Constantinople and Scutari, for soldiers and seamen, during the Crimean campaign, and also more recently to Aldershot.

The facts cited show most convincingly that, to a great extent, the emigrant, the soldier, and the sailor, will avail themselves of facilities and institutions intended for their benefit. After paying a deserved tribute to the noble qualities often evinced by the working classes of the United Kingdom, and giving various details of the Money-order Office, Mr. Sikes

asks, if equal facilities cannot be given to working men by that department of the public service, to lay by a few sovereigns for old age, or for a rainy day, as to remit two or three pounds to distant places—even to Canada—for relatives or friends? and then suggests his plan. He proposes that the Legislature should authorise a central savings-bank in London, to issue savings-bank interest notes, bearing interest at the rate of 2½ per cent. per annum, and to be obtained through the money-order department of the Post Office throughout the United Kingdom. As the receipt of shillings and sixpences would entail an immense amount of writing, without corresponding benefits, and as these small sums come within the province of penny savings-banks, Mr. Sikes proposes that the interest notes shall be for exact pounds, ascending from one to thirty, the maximum allowed to be deposited in a savings-bank in a year; other denominations of notes up to the final maximum of £150 to be afterwards added. The mode of transacting business may be briefly described:—A working man presents himself at a money-order office with a sum—say four pounds, for the savings-bank; he would obtain a money order, and inclose it in a printed form to the chief savings-bank, who would, in course of post, return to him an interest note for the sum made out in his name, and the transaction would be complete. In withdrawals of money, depositors would have to transmit their interest notes in printed forms to the chief savings-bank, receiving, in return, money orders for the sums they write for, and the interest, which, at 2½ per cent., is exactly a halfpenny per £1 per month, or sixpence a-year. In all cases local postmasters would give any information and assistance that might be required.

The plan is not intended to compete in the slightest degree with existing savings-banks, but to give accommodation in districts entirely without these institutions. There are now 2,360 money-order offices, deducting from which the 597 towns which have savings-banks, the branch money-order offices in London and the large towns, it would leave 1,527 money-order offices to be constituted receivers for a chief savings-bank in London. Fifteen hundred new institutions open from Monday morning to Saturday night, to receive from the artisan, the mechanic, and the labourer, throughout the realm, the few well-earned pounds he may yearly, or even quarterly, be able to lay by.

Mr. Sikes communicated the plan to Mr. Baines, M.P., who, highly approving of it, transmitted it to Mr. Rowland Hill. By Mr. Hill it was considered to be feasible and excellent; and Mr. Sikes and Mr. Baines went to the Post Office, where they saw Mr. Frederic Hill, together with the managers of the money-order department, who unanimously assured them that the project might be worked with great ease and simplicity. One excellent feature in the plan is, that every depositor would have a Government guarantee for the perfect safety of his little fund. The absence of shillings and pence would not be any material inconvenience. A large portion of the deposits in the joint-stock banks in England and Scotland are on "Interest Receipts;" and a recent examination showed that in one bank 86 per cent. were for pounds only. In one of the largest existing savings-banks, out of 1,000 deposits 78 per cent. were for even pounds. Everywhere the plan has been considered to be highly valuable. Several bankers, postmasters, managers of savings-banks, and members of Parliament, have given it their warm approbation. The press, both in London and the provinces, has strongly advocated it. The Council of the Dublin Statistical Society, Archbishop Whately president, have passed a resolution recording "their entire approval of the principles of the plan, considering it to be especially applicable to Ireland."

At the Social Science Meeting at Bradford, the venerable peer, Lord Brougham, in his masterly address drew the attention of the audience to the scheme. We earnestly hope it may be laid before Parliament in the form of a bill, and be supported by the influence of the Government next session. Gradually would it be discerned how ruthless an enemy is improvidence to working men; economy and forethought how truly their friends. Under their guidance household purchases could be made on most favoured terms—for cash; any wished-for house taken at the lowest rent for punctual payment, and a home enriched with comforts until it was enjoyed and prized by all. From such firesides go forth those inheriting the right spirit—loving industry, loving thrift, and loving home. Emulous of a good example, they, in their day and generation, would nobly endeavour to lay a portion of their income by. Many a hard winter and many a slack time would be comfortably got over by drawing on the little fund, to be again replenished in better days. And, remembering that