

THE PERRYSBURG JOURNAL.

BY S. CLARK.]

"Agriculture, Commerce, Manufactures."

[\$1.50 IN ADVANCE.]

VOL. 2.

PERRYSBURG, WOOD COUNTY, OHIO, MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1854.

NO. 5.

Terrible Engine of War--Startling Inventions.

PARIS, March 6.—The new inventions for the more rapid destruction of human beings which the war is bringing to light, especially in England, will surpass all expectations. The arsenals of England have for a long time been closed to visitors, even to members of Parliament, while these new and terrible machines were being made and experimented upon, and no knowledge of their existence was ever permitted until now called forth by actual service. Many years ago, the English Government had a proposition before them to adopt Wagoner's floating gun, and hesitated. A member of Parliament exclaimed:—"He demands but £300,000, and yet you hesitate! Hasten to buy this machine, declare war against France, and you will destroy her marine in a few days time!" No attention was paid to this apostrophe at the time in France, and apparently none in England. But this terrible invention, of which the public has ceased to talk, and which was even ridiculed at the time, has been maturing in concealment in the arsenals of Woolwich, and is now nearly ready to go out on its work of destruction.

Count Lavalette, captain of military marine in France, who knew the construction of this gun, it is said, made endeavors to have it adopted by the Minister of Marine, under Louis Philippe. It is simply a long congreve gun, which glides along on the water in a straight line, till it strikes the vessel at which it is directed, when it thrusts into its sides its iron head, containing two pounds of fulminating powder of mercury. When the fire attains this reservoir, it explodes, blowing a hole 10 or 12 feet in diameter, which it is impossible for them to close up as they do the round holes made by cannon balls.

In admitting that the Russian fleets shall retire under the inaccessible fortresses of Cronstadt and Sebastopol, they cannot be in safety from this terrible congreve gun, which carries to almost any distance within reach of the aim, and far beyond the reach of any other gun. It cannot be prevented from passing through the most contracted straits where ships pass.

The submarine boats are so perfected at this moment that they can reach and attach a burner to any enemy's ship without running the least danger. Experiments are also being made with an asphyxiating ball, which does not kill, but which paralyzes an entire crew for several hours, or until they are made prisoners. They are embarking also a large number of burning explosive balls, which explode invariably when they strike, even in the body of a horse, for they inflame at the moment of discharge from the gun, and fly burning like small congreves until the moment of the explosion, when they may apply fire to the ammunition chests and other inflammable material, as easily and as surely as if they were to fall in a stubble field.

They are furnishing also two small steam-boats of a singular appearance, which will carry only two enormous Paixhan guns, placed on the fore part of the vessel. The walls of these little vessels have a thickness of six feet, made of oak, standing upright, and this covered with a matras of cotton substance a foot and a half thick, which is impenetrable to a bullet, and this again covered with a sheeting of iron and lead. Its prow has the angular form of a cuirass intended to turn bullets; the roof or deck is covered in the same way, so as to allow the bombs to glide into the sea without doing damage.

The fire-ship, very heavy, and a very bad sailer, will be towed, and let loose at the proper moment, to approach near the enemy's vessels, either when at anchor or laying-to, which it will attack fore and aft with bombs thrown between wind and water, and sprinkling the ship with a shower of Grecian fire. One of their burners, taking by surprise a fleet of vessels in a calm,

could with ease destroy the whole fleet, and yet it only requires the labor of ten determined men to operate it.

The English fleet is largely provided with balloons, intended to carry inflammable materials to scatter over towns, villages and fleets, when the wind favors such operations.

The English land force will be largely provided with rifles carrying the Minie ball—which has at last been adopted in England; while the French will send a still larger proportion of troops carrying the *Balle-a-tige*, which is used in the French service in the place of the Minie ball. The Russian vessels will have one advantage in being more largely supplied with Colt's revolvers than either the English or French, which will be used with an overpowering advantage in boarding contests. Altogether, the contest will be quite a different affair, as regards its killing power, from those which were seen as late even as fifty years ago. Already the reader must have observed, that in the contest on the Danube the numbers killed in comparison to the numbers engaged is enormous, when compared with the last general war between those two nations.

Value of the Corn Crop.

At a legislative agricultural meeting, held in Boston, the subject of discussion for the evening, was as follows:—"Is the increased culture of Indian corn, worthy the attention of the farmers of the Commonwealth?"—We append a few of the remarks made.

Mr. Sprague spoke at some length upon the history of Indian corn, and the progress that has been made in its cultivation. In the old Colony the crop has been doubled.—Still there is much to learn in regard to its culture, even by the best farmer in the State. The importance of Indian corn to the farmer was also dwelt upon.

Dr. Reynolds of Concord, spoke of the nutritive value of different crops. Taking Johnson's estimates and applying them to our crops, he made corn for home use to be about twice as valuable as wheat; but for sale about the same. He also made it much more valuable than turnips—one pound of corn being equal to eight pounds of turnips. A similar result was shown in comparison between corn and English hay, meadow hay and oats. Dr. Reynolds thought the English and German tables, upon which our estimates are generally made are not adapted to our soil and crops, and need revision before they can be adopted generally. He had come to the conclusion that corn is the most profitable crop the farmer can raise.

Maj. Wheeler, of Farmington, presented some statistics showing the comparative cost of raising different crops, and their value, the result of which was, that corn was more valuable than wheat, oats, carrots, or hay. He believed corn to be one of the most profitable crops the farmer can raise at the present prices. Any farmer, he thought, could raise 55 bushels to the acre, if the land is ploughed deep.

Mr. Brown addressed the meeting upon the renewed importance of the culture of the corn crop, especially in view of the disturbances in Europe. The export of wheat, corn and flour, the first two weeks of this year, as compared with last year, shows a great increase, amounting in value to \$1,247,800. He advised farmers to go into the culture of the corn crop.

A HEAVY FAMILY.—The family of Col. James Russell, of Temple, consisting of himself, wife and six children, weigh in the aggregate 1565 lbs.; average weight of each 195½ lbs. The heaviest member of the family weighs 330, and the lightest 146 lbs.—[Farmington Chronicle.]

"BETTER LATE THAN NEVER."—The Ohio Statesman says Sam Medary has paid into the Treasury the \$9,000 which he received as the outfit of the mission to Chili. The resolution of inquiry adopted by the house of representatives, seems to have quickened the movement of the ex-minister.

Extraordinary Performances of a Lady.

The following is an extract of a letter from a person travelling in the wild portions of Delaware and Sullivan counties, New York:

As I was trudging along one afternoon in the town of Fremont, one of the border towns of Sullivan county, I was overtaken by what I first supposed was a young man with a rifle on his shoulder; and being well pleased with the idea of having company through the woods, I turned around and said, "Good afternoon, sir;" "Good afternoon," said my new acquaintance, but in a tone of voice that sounded to me rather peculiar. My suspicions were at once aroused, and to satisfy myself I made some enquiries in regard to hunting, which were readily answered by the young lady whom I thus encountered. She said she had been out ever since daylight—had followed a buck nearly all day, got one shot and wounded him, but as there was little snow she could not get him, and was going to try him the next day, hoping that she could get another shot at him, and she was quite certain that she should kill him.

Although I cannot give a very good idea of her appearance, I will try to describe her dress. The only article of female apparel visible was a close-fitted hood upon her head, such as is often worn by deer hunters. Next, an India rubber hunting coat; her nether limbs were encased in a snug, tight fitting pair of corduroy pants, and a pair of Indian moccasins upon her feet. She had a good looking rifle upon her shoulder, and a brace of double barreled pistols in the side pockets of her coat, while a formidable hunting knife hung suspended by her side. Wishing to witness her skill with hunting instruments, I commenced bantering her with regard to shooting. She smiled and said she was as good a shot as was in the woods, and to convince me she took out her hunting knife and cut a ring four inches in diameter in a tree, with a small spot in the center. Then stepping back thirty yards, and drawing up one of her pistols, put both balls inside the ring. She then, at thirty-five rods from the tree, put a ball from her rifle in the very centre. We shortly came to her father's house, and I gladly accepted an invitation to stop there over night. The maiden hunter, instead of sitting down to rest, as most hunters do when they go home, remarked that she had the chores to do. So out she went; fed, watered and stabled a pair of young horses, a yoke of oxen and two cows. She then went to the saw mill, and brought a slab on her shoulder that I shouldn't like to carry, and with an axe and saw soon worked it into stove wood.

Her first business was to change her dress and get tea, which she did in a manner which would have been creditable to a more scientific cook. After tea she finished up her usual household work, and then sat down and commenced plying her needle in a very lady-like manner. I ascertained that her mother was quite feeble, and her father confined to the house with rheumatism. The whole family were intelligent, well educated and communicative. They had moved from Schoharie county into the woods about three years before, and the father was taken lame the first winter after their arrival, and had not been able to do anything since. Lucy Ann, as her mother called her, has taken charge of, ploughed, planted, and harvested the farm, learned to chop wood, drive team, and do all necessary work. Game being plenty, she had learned to use her father's rifle, and spent some of her leisure time in hunting. She had not killed a deer yet, but expressed her determination to kill one at least before New Years. She boasted of having killed any quantity of partridges, squirrels and other small game. After chatting some time, she brought a violin from a closet, and played fifteen or twenty tunes, and also sang a few songs, accompanying herself on the violin in a style that showed she was far from destitute of musical skill. After spending a pleasant evening

we retired. The next morning she was up at four o'clock, and before sunrise had the breakfast out of the way, and all her work out of doors and in the house done, and when I left, a few minutes after sunrise, she had on her hunting suit, and was loading her rifle for an other chase after the deer.

FROM THE FAR NORTH-WEST.—The Council Bluffs Bugle publishes the summary of a "talk" with Col. A. G. Vaughn, Government agent for thirteen tribes of Northern Indians. The Colonel distributed \$50,400 among his charge, which sum they are to receive annually as long as they maintain the Laramie treaty. The tribes, amounting in individuals to 70,000, were friendly and at peace among themselves. He arrived at Yellow Stone on the 4th of July. On the 3d he had seen "plenty of ice on the banks of the Missouri." The whole country north of Iowa is a broken, sandy, and valueless waste, but to view presents scenery of the most magnificent character. In one region (north of Iowa) he found every thing on the surface of the ground, logs, vegetables, animals, in a partial or complete state of petrefaction. He saw tortoises by the score which would weigh upwards of 500 pounds turned to solid rock. The Colonel brought with him several specimens of petrefaction, such as eagles, gulls, reptiles, pieces of wood, &c. The country he traversed on his return to Council Bluffs was not visited with any snow and scarcely with any rain during the winter. He reports favorably of the Sioux, and it is not the Sioux but the Sautees who are creating ill feeling against the Omahas. The thermometer ranged between 90° and 100° in August at Fort Pierre, where Mr. Vaughn wintered, while in December it fell below zero. After leaving Sargeant's Bluffs he visited the band of Sautees who have been in pursuit of the Omahas, and advised them to return home, which they promised to do.

A better description of the manner in which sea-sickness "takes down" the loftiest and most pompous character was never written than that which is furnished by that illustrious flunkey, Mr. Chawls Yellowplush:

"Gentel reader, av you ever been on the otion? 'The sea, the hopen sea?' as Barry Cornwell says. As soon as we entered our little wessel, and I'd look to master's lug-gitch, and mine, (mine was wrapped up in a very small handkerchief,) as soon, I say, as we entered our little wessel, as I saw the waves, black and frothy, like fresh drawn porter, a dashin against the ribbs of our gallant bark, the keal like a wedge, a splittin the billoes in two, the sales a flappin in the hair, the standard of Hengland floating at the mast ead, the steward a getting ready the basins and things, and the captain proudly treading the deck and giving orders to the sailors, the white rox of Albany, and bathin-mashens disappearing in the distans—then, then I felt for the first time the mite the madgiste of existence. "Yellowplush, my boy," said I, a dialog to myself, "your life is now about to commens: your career as a man dates from your entrans on board this packet. Be wise, be manly, be cautious; forgit the follies of your youth. You are no longer a boy now, but a FOOTMAN. Throw down your tops, your marbles, your boyish games; throw off your childish habits with your inky'clerk's jactit—throw up your—"

"Here I recklect, I was obleeged to stop. A fealin in the first place singular, in the next place painful, and at last completely overpowering, had came upon me while I was making the abuff speech, and I now found myself in a sityouation which dillixy for bids me to describe. Suffis to say, that I now discovered what basins was made for: that for many, many hours I lay in a hagony of exostion, dead to all intence and purposes, the rain pattering in my face, the salers a tramplink over my body; the panes of purgortory going on inside!"