

DEADLY BOW AND BATTLEAXE.

SLAUGHTER GREATER THAN WITH MODERN FIREARMS.

Comparison of List of Casualties Appears to Indicate That Hand-to-Hand Warfare in Battle—The Great Distances at Which Fighting is Now Carried On.

The horror of war increases pari passu with the advance of civilization, and the value set upon life has arisen proportionately with our ability to appreciate its preciousness.

Such facts would doubtless have confounded M. Bloch, whose favorite contention it was that, owing to the deadliness of modern weapons, war was rapidly becoming impossible.

If we take battles like Colenso and Kinchinnock since the employment of magazine rifles and quick-firing artillery, and compare them with such engagements as Crécy, Poitiers or Agincourt, we cannot fail to be impressed with the astonishing discrepancy in the casualty lists.

With the results of this three hours' battle it is interesting to contrast the losses of the Russian and Japanese, where both sides were armed to the teeth with modern weapons, and the position which the French army occupied in the battle of Agincourt.

How infinitely more terrible again was the work of the bow and the battleaxe at the battle of Crécy in 1346, when our own countrymen, under the leadership of King Edward III., routed the great army of Philip of France.

As we gradually approach our own time we should find that the number of those actually slain in battle to the numbers of those who are wounded shows a sensible decrease, but that to the contrary there are almost as many killed in proportion to the numbers engaged, in spite of the fact that the weapons of war are always described as growing more and more deadly.

In the campaigns of Marlborough there was still much hand-to-hand fighting, for although artillery had become more important, the infantry fire was still of little range or accuracy.

Although in the larger armies of more modern times losses have reached in many instances a high figure, yet the percentage of slaughter, especially of killed to wounded combatants, has shown a remarkable decrease from the horrible figures of ancient battles and sieges.

In old days, when the effective range of the longbow was not more than 18 to 20 score yards, a battle could only be decided by armies coming to close quarters at an early stage of the combat.

It was between a couple of bulldogs, and they went at in a manner that threatened to put an end to the life of both.

THE RECONSTRUCTION BONDS.

A North Carolina's Explanation of Their Issuance and Their Repudiation.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: The renewed interest in the old discredited Southern Reconstruction bonds, which has called forth two letters to your paper, comes, as every one knows, from the recent South Dakota case, which had reference only to the bonds of North Carolina.

As to the other class of bonds, known as the Reconstruction bonds, I shall endeavor to give facts in relation to them and the manner of their issuance, which will enable the public to judge for itself.

Under the rule of Gen. Canby, whose headquarters were in Charleston, S. C., and in whose military district North Carolina lay, an election was ordered for the election of delegates to another State convention.

Just here if one were disposed to be captious, or to make an error, one might find in at least getting a considerable degree of amusement out of the spectacle of a territory with no provision for the election of a military dictator at the other, going through the solemn form of legislative action.

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POEMS WORTH READING.

The Mystery of Pain.

A moment, and the eyes so clear and true Are dark with agony; a moment more, And, like a flash through some close-curtained door,

Village Types—The Spinster.

Her name it was Lucinda Brown, The prettiest in all the town— At least 'twas so reported when She won the prize for the glass show.

Demurely she glanced over all The swains who came at beck and call.

Her maiden cheeks bore ne'er a mark, Her hair then they were to rhapsodize.

Her eyes were like the stars of heaven, Who prayed her beauty to the skies— While Cindy only smiled her scorn.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

1. Rosemary, in his "German in American War," states that Frederick the Great (the Great) was a Prussian soldier in the 17th century.

2. I am informed by a friend that when he visited Mount Vernon he saw a portrait of George Washington supposed to be the work of Frederick the Great.

3. The story of the presentation of the portrait seems to have originated in a highly imaginative paragraph in the New Jersey Journal of Aug. 17th, 1870, now in the possession of the New York Historical Society.

4. The story was adopted in modified form by the New York Daily Tribune in its "American Revolution," Volume II, page 80.

5. The story said to have been presented to Washington by Frederick the Great is now at Albany.

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A PARKER CHRISTENING STORY.

How the Judge's Folks Named His Grandson after David B. Hill suggested.

FORUS, July 23.—There is an interesting story about the naming of Alton Parker Hall, the four-year-old grandson of the Democratic nominee for President.

Judge Parker's father's name was John, and there was a John Parker in almost every generation.

The Judge himself regretted that he was not named John, and he gave that name to his son, who died when a boy.

When a son was born to the Rev. Charles Mercer Hall and his wife, who is Judge Parker's daughter, the Judge's wish was that the child should be named John.

This probably would have been done but for interference on the part of ex-Senator David B. Hill, who wrote to Judge Parker to urge that the baby be named after a Parker who had achieved more fame than any of his forefathers.

Judge Parker was not moved by this, but the argument impressed Mr. and Mrs. Hill, and they determined to thwart the Judge.

They chose Arthur McQuinn, who is the Judge's private secretary, and close friend of the late Senator David B. Hill, as godfather of the child, and the three decided that no one else, not even the Judge, should know what name would be given to the baby.

The plan was carried out, and when the building is shown by the following figures: In 1891, 1,074 miles; in 1892, 1,084 miles; in 1893, 1,083 miles; in 1900, 10,900 miles; in 1901, 10,583 miles; in 1902, 13,388 miles.

This makes a total of 55,629 miles in the seven years and an average of 12,235 miles a year. From 1890 to 1890 the mileage built was the greatest, the yearly average being 15,218.

The noticeable decrease in construction from 1901 to 1902 was due chiefly to reductions in Asia, from 4,845 miles in 1901 to 2,355 in 1902, and Africa, where construction decreased from 1,690 miles in 1901 to 394 in 1902.

Famous Wolf Hunter of Scotland.

From Blackwood's Magazine. The most active carnage in their destruction was MacQueen of Paila-chrochan, an immense dog who stood 4 feet 7 inches in his brogues.

This worthy, one winter day in 1743 came word from MacIntosh that a great black bear had come down to the low country and carried off a couple of the children near Cawdor, and that the hunters or hunting drive, was to meet at Figh-tin, where MacQueen was summoned to attend according to act of Parliament.

Next morning, in the cold dawn, the hunters were assembled, but where was MacQueen? He was not to be "hanged" on such an occasion, and his bounds, not to mention him, were almost instantly as the day wore on, and when at last MacQueen was seen coming, he was surely long, the chief spoke sharply in his brogues. To this worthy, one winter day in 1743 came word from MacIntosh that a great black bear had come down to the low country and carried off a couple of the children near Cawdor, and that the hunters or hunting drive, was to meet at Figh-tin, where MacQueen was summoned to attend according to act of Parliament.

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