

A SINGULAR DEFENSE.

The Baltimore Correspondent of New York World furnishes that paper with the following account of one very singular means of defence of Richmond:

"Before leaving the defenses of Richmond, I must mention a new and novel invention by Captain Holden of the rebel army. It is nothing more or less than a stink ball designed to be fired into the works of besiegers to stink them out. About the middle of April, I was one of several civilians, who, upon invitation, accompanied a party of officers to Atlee's, a station on the Central railroad ten miles from Richmond, to witness some experiments with this ball. The ball is an iron shell containing combustible and destructive material, as well as odiferous matter, and in appearance is similar to the stink ball in use many years ago. It is designed to be thrown by mortars, but in the tests on the occasion referred to, the fuse was lighted and the shells allowed to fulminate where they were placed. The stench which followed the explosion was the most fetid and villanous that ever outraged the olfactories of man. Coleridge said that he counted in Cologne seventy-seven

"Well defined and several stinks." But if he had been at Atlee's on the day of the experiments alluded to, he would have recognized them all, and seventy-seven thousand more. The concentrated stink of all the skunks, pole-cats, niggers, pitch, sulphur, rasped horses' hoofs, burnt in fire, assafoetida, ferula, and bug-weeds in the world could not equal the smell emitted by these balls. But not only is the smell in itself intolerable, but it provokes sneezing and coughing, and produces nausea, rendering it impossible for men to do duty within reach of it. A single ball will impregnate the atmosphere for fifty yards round, and the fetid compound, entering everything it touches, emits the stench for a long time.—The opinion of all who witnessed the experiments was that these balls were a fair offset to Greek fire, and General Winder, and several other officers of rank who were present, expressed the belief that it would prove more effective for driving off besiegers than anything ever invented. Be this as it may, if Richmond is ever threatened by a siege, the "sneezers," as the inventor facetiously calls his balls, will form a prominent feature in the defensive operations."

1864. **SPRING STYLES!** 1864.
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