

MR. ALEXANDER RUSSEL.

A FEW weeks ago our Journal contained a brief account of a presentation of plate, with 1600 sovereigns, to Mr. Russel, editor of the *Scotsman*; and we have now great pleasure in giving a Portrait of this deserving and unusually fortunate member of the Fourth Estate.

Mr. Russel was born in Edinburgh on the 10th of December, 1814, and was educated in his native city. His calling was originally intended to have been that of a printer; but as he approached manhood he changed his views, and, after contributing to *Tait's Magazine* and other periodicals of the day, he became, in 1839, the editor of the *Berwick Advertiser*. Having occupied that position for three years, he took charge of the *Fife Herald*, which he continued to be till 1844, when he started a Liberal paper in Kilmarnock. In the beginning of 1844, however, Mr. Russel became connected with the *Scotsman* as assistant to Mr. Maclaren, then editor of that Journal. Mr. Maclaren, finding his place so well supplied, and after a long and successful career as an editor, resigned, and Mr. Russel was chosen as his successor. Besides his able conduct of the *Scotsman* Mr. Russel has contributed valuable articles to the *Edinburgh Review*, the *Quarterly Review*, the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, *Blackwood's Magazine*, and other publications.

The testimonials already referred to, which were presented to Mr. Russel by a large number of the leaders of the Liberal party of Edinburgh, consist of an elegant and massive silver salver, a silver claret-jug, a timepiece in gold (the whole of which articles were supplied by Mackay and Cunningham, of Edinburgh), a purse containing 1600 sovereigns, and an emblazoned roll of the subscribers, numbering about four hundred and fifty, and including among them many of the most celebrated men of the day. The object of the presentation is best explained by the inscription on the salver, which is as follows:—"Presented, with 1600 sovereigns, to Alexander Russel, Esq., editor of the *Scotsman*, in recognition of his able and consistent advocacy of enlightened political principles, and as a mark of respect for his honourable and independent conduct in public and private life, 1860." This tribute has been well earned, and, we believe, has been bestowed with a hearty appreciation of the deserving qualities of Mr. Russel as an editor, an able writer, and an honest man.



MR. ALEXANDER RUSSEL, EDITOR OF THE "SCOTSMAN."—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY TRUEFITT BROTHERS.

VOLUNTEER FORCE, MONTREAL, CANADA.

THE Montreal Volunteer Brigade, organised under the Militia Act of 1855, consists at present of a Commandant, Brigade Major, and Aide-de-Camp; a squadron of cavalry, eleven officers, and 100 sabres; a field battery of artillery, four guns, seven officers, and sixty men; a company of foot artillery, three officers, and fifty men; two companies of the battalion Montreal Artillery, ten officers, and eighty-six men; a battalion of Rifles, consisting of nine companies,

thirty-nine officers, and 500 men; a battalion of Light Infantry, officered, but not yet embodied: making a total of seventy-three officers and 796 men, uniformed as shown in the annexed Engraving.

sults obtained by the Lancashire gun, and certainly they merit the appellation of "astounding" bestowed upon them by a leading morning paper. The smallest gun, a 3-pounder, weighing only 208lb., threw

This fine brigade is now in the most efficient state, and has on various occasions co-operated with her Majesty's troops in the field. On the Queen's birthday it invariably parades with them. The late gallant Sir William Eyre, when Commander of the Forces in Canada, took the warmest interest in the force; and on one occasion, that of a sham fight on the St. Lawrence with the troops in the garrison, complimented it by a flattering general order for the efficient manner in which it took part in the evolutions of the day. It was lately reviewed and inspected by the hero of Kars, who expressed his approbation of its general appearance and steadiness under arms. The brigade is now looking forward to having the honour of providing his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales with the suitable escorts and guards of honour due to his rank during his stay in Montreal, on his visit to Canada the coming summer.

EXPERIMENTS WITH WHITWORTH'S RIFLED CANNON AT SOUTHPORT.

So much has been said and written upon the astonishing results obtained from Mr. Whitworth's cannon in his late experiments that it will be unnecessary to do more than give a general account of what took place at Southport. Mr. Whitworth's experiments were made on the seashore between Southport and Liverpool. By the permission of the Admiralty he availed himself of some six or seven miles of flat seashore, admirably adapted for testing the range of his guns, but not equally suited for target practice at long distances. The targets placed on the flat shore cannot be distinguished so as to enable them to be sighted at the great ranges to which the Whitworth cannon throws its shot. An eminence similar to that from which the cannon are fired at the Shoeburyness range is requisite.

The experiments were made on five different days, between the 16th and 24th ult. Southport, which is one of the most frequented of the Lancashire watering-places, roused itself from its winter lethargy to witness the success of the great Lancashire engineer and artilleryman. Crowds of visitors streamed along the flat shores, or climbed the sandy hillocks which fringe the low coast and form a natural dyke against the incursions of the sea.

A small, open space on the shore, about two miles and a half from Southport, was marked out by cords and posts to restrain the press of the spectators, who were, moreover, duly kept in order by the inevitable police. In this space stood four Whitworth breech-loading guns, mounted on their carriages. Two were 3-pounders, one was a 12-pounder, and one an 80-pounder. An 18-pounder was also on the sands, but it was not fired, as so much time was taken up by the experiments with the other guns.

We give in tables, which follow, the best results obtained by the Lancashire gun, and certainly they merit the appellation of "astounding" bestowed upon them by a leading morning paper. The smallest gun, a 3-pounder, weighing only 208lb., threw



ARTILLERY.

LIGHT INFANTRY.

FIELD BATTERY.

COMMANDANT.

RIFLES.

BRIGADE MAJOR.

CAVALRY.

VOLUNTEER FORCE, MONTREAL, CANADA.—FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY NOTMAN

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a shot upwards of five miles and a half, and achieved more in point of range than any gun of any calibre that had before been tried, not excepting any made by Sir William Armstrong.

It has since been said that precision, rather than range, was chiefly aimed at by Sir William Armstrong. It would seem likely, however, that the gun that was able to give its shot the best impetus for flight would also give it the truest impetus for precision.

The shooting of the Whitworth 30-pounder at 7 deg. appears to have been still more accurate: the range attained was about two miles, and three out of four shots fell in an area of sixteen yards long, by one foot wide.

Objections have been made to the Whitworth cannon on the score that it does not fire shell; but if, as Mr. Whitworth states, it is adapted for solid shot, and still better for shell, and hollow shot filled with molten iron, the objection is without foundation.

All the cannon fired at Southport are breech-loaders. The breech end of the gun is closed when charged by a cap, screwed on something like a magnified top of a pencil-case, except that, being of larger proportions, it is turned by a handle. The cap is not detached, but works in a hoop, which is connected by a hinge-joint to the breech of the gun.

The method of charging and working the gun is as follows:—Two or three turns of the handle unscrew the breech-cap, which is received and supported in a hoop, and is then swung back, or rather on one side, like an opened door, leaving the breech end of the gun exposed.

Next to the gun itself, the tin cartridge-case, whose convenience and utility were strikingly manifest, was most admired. Its suitability for storage and superiority over the old flannel bag were universally acknowledged.

It should be mentioned that, at different times during the continuance of the experiments, many military officers of high rank in our own and foreign services, and of acknowledged authority in matters relating to artillery, were present.

Among the figures grouped round the gun in our illustration are represented Sir John Burgoyne, ever zealous on behalf of the service; the Hon. Captain Wrottesley; Colonel Campbell, who represented the Ordnance Select Committee; and Mr. Whitworth himself.

The military men and engineers, who mustered in strong force to witness the Southport experiments, were as much pleased as surprised by the extreme simplicity of the breech-loading arrangements, and the ease and certainty with which the guns were worked.

In some of the reported accounts the ranges are tabulated in decreasing or in increasing order. This, it should be observed, gives no indication of the actual order of firing, of which no account was kept, as all the shots were measured at the end of the experiment to prevent loss of time.

Our space will not admit of our giving tables of all the experiments made; we have, therefore, chosen those which give the best and most interesting results, and which specially enable a comparison to be made between the Whitworth and Armstrong guns.



THE WHITWORTH GUN.

mined on the vertical targets at the Hythe School of Musketry. This method of calculation is the most accurate, for as the gun was always laid for the line of fire, and no alteration was made in its direction during the firing of a particular group, a certain amount of deviation would be given to all the shots by the wind.

Table with 4 columns: Range in yards, Deviation from line of fire in yards, Range in yards, Deviation from line of fire in yards. It contains data for various gun models and shot counts, such as '3-pounder gun, 9 shots fired at an elevation of 3°, charge 7 1/2 oz., Feb. 22.'

If three out of the four shots be taken, the greatest difference in range is sixteen yards, while the greatest difference in width is only one foot! Calculating the mean of deviation on the Hythe system, it is only four inches, a precision about equal to that of the Whitworth rifle musket when shot under most favourable conditions at one-seventh of the range of the cannon—that is, at 500 yards.

THE ULTIMATUM OF FRANCE TO SARDINIA.

The *Moniteur* of Saturday last contained a message from M. Thouvenel, dated Feb. 24, addressed to Baron Talleyrand, the French Ambassador at Turin.

The Minister states the grave situation which has been created by the late events, and explains the dangers which would be incurred by Piedmont in over-extending her territory. M. Thouvenel says:—The idea of annexation to Piedmont is rather a protest against another great Power than a deliberate attraction towards Sardinia.

M. Thouvenel states that in a message of the same date to M. Persigny, French Ambassador at London, he explains the motives of the last proposal made by France to Sardinia. Austria having refused the proposal of England, the Government of the Emperor of the French was convinced that he could not succeed in relieving himself of his moral responsibility unless the principle of universal suffrage which constitutes his own legitimacy becomes also the foundation of the new order of things in Italy.

AUDACIOUS ROBBERY.—The cabinet of the King of the Belgians in the Palace at Brussels was entered on Monday week, and two paintings by Verboeckhoven, and a clock indicating the dates and the seasons, were stolen. To carry off the pictures easily the thief removed them from the frames. The clock, which, it is said, was a present from Queen Victoria, was highly prized by his Majesty. The police were immediately set on foot, and discovered that the clock had been pawned; but of the thief and of the pictures they have thus far obtained no trace.

THE FARM.

THE late night frosts have told sadly upon the wheat, and the sun by day has tended to double the mischief. Farmers live on in the hope that spring will come with a rush, as they are having hard work, with chaff, cut clover, meal, and other devices for their sheep, to fill up the vacuum between rotten turnips and long-delayed grass.

The first great shorthorn sale of the year took place at Mr. Crawley's last week, and fifty-eight lots averaged £46 4s. 6d., under Mr. Stafford's glass. Of this average £53 18s. must be apportioned to the cows and heifers, £28 to the heifer calves, and £31 to the bulls and bull calves.

Colonel Towneley's Fidelity has had a fine bull calf by Royal Buttery, and Mr. Ambley has sold his Prince Alfred, by Booth's Lord of the Valley from Florence, to a gentleman near Chipping Norton.

THE NEW REFORM BILL.

The bill brought in by Lord John Russell further to amend the laws relating to the representation of the people in England and Wales was issued last Saturday. It consists of thirty clauses and four short schedules.

The first clause confers the right of voting in counties upon occupiers of houses or other buildings, separately or jointly with any land occupied therewith as owner or as tenant under the same landlord, of the clear yearly value of not less than £10.

Clause 2 enacts that the provisions now in force as to time of occupation, rating, claiming to be rated, payment of rates, and as to successive and joint occupation, in boroughs, are to be applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, to the county franchise.

Clause 3 it is provided that the yearly value of premises occupied giving a right to vote is to be £10 instead of £10.

Clause 4 enacts that the occupation of a building, other than a dwelling-house jointly with land, is not to confer a right of voting, unless the building be of £5 yearly value in counties, or £3 in boroughs.

Clause 5 sets forth that sections 24 and 25 of the Reform Act of 1832 shall not be applicable when the right to vote in a borough is taken away by the previous section. Those two sections disentitle the persons mentioned in them from voting for a knight of the shire, in respect of their estates, or holdings, or occupation, as described in the former Act.

Clause 6 repeals the enactments requiring payment of assessed taxes by occupiers previous to registration.

Clause 7 to 13 refer to the schedules taking away one member from each of twenty-five places now returning two, and distributing these members to other boroughs and counties.

Clause 14 recounts the qualification of electors for the member allotted to London University. All Masters of Arts, Bachelors of Laws, Doctors of Laws, Bachelors of Medicine of the University, and Bachelors of Arts of three years' standing are to be entitled to vote.

The remaining clauses, to the number of sixteen, refer to the details of arrangements respecting the taking of votes, &c.

The following are the schedules referred to in the bill:— SCHEDULE A.—Boroughs now returning two members which are to return in future Parliaments one member each:—Guildford, Hertford, Devizes, Marlborough, Dorchester, Bodmin, Chippenham, Huntingdon, Cirencester, Ripon, Maldon, Tewkesbury, Knaresborough, Andover, Ludlow, Lynton, Leominster, Marlborough, Richmond, Wells, Evesham, Harwich, Tonnes, Thetford, Homerton.

SCHEDULE B.—Places to be boroughs to return one member each:—Birkenhead (Cheshire); Burnley (Lancashire); Stalybridge (Cheshire and Lancashire).

SCHEDULE C.—County, riding, parts, and divisions of counties, now returning two knights of the shire, which are to return in future Parliaments three knights of the shire each:—Lancashire, Southern Division; Lancashire, Northern Division; Middlesex; Kent, Western Division; Devonshire, Southern Division; Yorkshire, North Riding; Lincolnshire, Parts of Lindsey; Essex, Southern Division; Somerset, Eastern Division; Norfolk, Western Division; Cornwall, Western Division; Essex, Northern Division.

SCHEDULE D.—Boroughs now returning two members which are to return in future Parliaments three members each:—Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds.

DESECRATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE.—A letter from Jerusalem complains that this church frequently resembles a public street, as people go to and fro, talk aloud, and sometimes quarrel; children play about and chase each other from column to column; and ragged and dirty mendicants of all nations and both sexes group themselves in the side chapels or on the steps of altars and clamorously demand alms.

FRANCE AND SAVOY.—The diplomatic correspondence on the subject of Savoy was laid before Parliament yesterday week. The first document is from Captain Harris, our Envoy in Switzerland, dated July 1, 1859.

In a letter dated February 13, 1860, addressed by Lord John Russell to Earl Cowley, with the answer of her Majesty's Government to a despatch of the 5th from M. Thouvenel, his Lordship thus unequivocally expresses himself on the subject:—"Although the project of the annexation of Savoy to France has been sometimes mentioned to your Excellency, yet it was in contradiction to the language of the proclamations of the Emperor of the French before and during the war in Italy, and that it is only very lately this annexation has appeared in the light of a probable arrangement. It is only of late, therefore, that it has been thought necessary by her Majesty's Government to state their serious objections to the project of transferring Savoy and Nice to France. Her Majesty's Government cannot conceive that the security of France, a country so rich, so populous, and so military, possessing 36,000,000 of inhabitants, without counting her colonies, can be endangered by the existence, on the other side of the Alps, of a State of 11,000,000 of people, lately joined by a cement not yet dry, threatened, on the side of Lombardy, by Austria, and not very certain of its own independence."