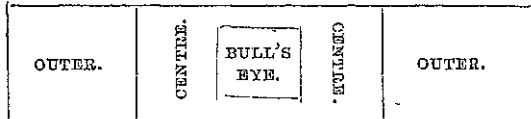


THE RIFLE CONTEST OF 1875 AT DOLLYMOUNT RANGE, NEAR DUBLIN.

VICTORY once more perches on the banner of America in the trial of sharp eyes and steady nerves. In the international rifle contest of 1875, which took place at Dollymount, June 29, the American team defeated its Irish competitors by a score of 967 to 929. Previous to the day appointed for the final test, the American marksmen and their friends were treated to an unceasing round of banquets, pleasure excursions, entertainments, and exhibitions of all sorts. A banquet in their honor was given by the Fellows of Trinity College—being the first event of its kind in twenty years. The preliminary practice of both teams indicated that the match would probably be a close one; an opinion which was further strengthened by the result of last year's contest at Creedmoor. In Ireland, however, the prevailing impression foreshadowed an American victory. Doubtless, the sympathy of the masses had something to do with this, for, anomalous though it may seem, the Americans, since their arrival in Dublin, have been the popular favorites. The anomaly is readily explained. No man in Ireland suspected of national proclivities is allowed to own or carry a firearm. Hence it is said that the Irish riflemen (so-called) are West-Britons in sentiment; else they would be disarmed like their neighbors. Dollymount

WHERE THE IRISH RANGE IS LOCATED, stands on the border of the Bay about four miles north-east of Dublin, and on the outskirts of the historic battlefield of Clontarf where "Brian smote down the Dane." On June 29 it was the scene of a far different engagement. All through the morning hours the road from the city to the shooting-ground was thronged with vehicles and pedestrians on their way to the range. The weather at first was somewhat hazy, but in the afternoon it grew clear and pleasant as could be desired. The firing took place under the same conditions as at Creedmoor last year. Six men in each team; ranges 800, 900, and 1000 yards; fifteen shots per man at each range; targets six feet high by twelve feet wide, the black "bull's eye" three feet square, bounded by a "centre" six feet square, the remainder being "outer"—the "bull's eye" counting four points, the "centre" three points, and the "outer" two points; the Americans shooting with American rifles, the Irish with Irish rifles, without telescope sights, hair triggers, or artificial rests. The following diagram shows the shape of the target:



COMPOSITION OF THE TEAMS.

The victorious American team consists of Gen. T. S. Dakin, Col. John Bodine, Col. H. A. Gildersleeve, Major Henry Fulton, G. W. Yale, and R. C. Coleman. The first five of these, with Mr. Hepburn, constituted the winning party at Creedmoor last year. The Irish team of 1875 consists of Edmund Johnson, James Wilson, Dr. J. B. Hamilton, J. K. Milner, J. Pollock, and J. M'Kenna. The first four, with Rigby and Walker, participated in the Creedmoor contest. The markers for the occasion were a detachment of experts from the Fiftieth regiment. Everything being in readiness, the struggle began at the 800 yards range about eleven o'clock. In two hours the result was known: 338 for the Irish, 337 for their rivals—admirably close and fine shooting. At four o'clock the shooting at the second range was finished, giving a score of 327 to the Americans, against 292 to the Irish. This left the latter 34 points in the rear, and practically decided the victory. For the thousand yards range the bulletins announced: Americans, 303; Irish, 299—making Columbia the victor by 38 points altogether. The following table presents the separate scores in detail:

SCORES OF THE AMERICAN TEAM.		Totals.
Colonel H. A. Gildersleeve.		
Yards.		
800	3 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 3 4 3 4 4—56	
900	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 4 4 4 3 4 3—56	
1000	2 4 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 3 3 4 4 4 3—52—164	
General T. S. Dakin.		
800	4 4 3 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4—58	
900	4 4 3 4 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 4—55	
1000	3 0 3 3 4 4 2 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—51—164	
Colonel John Bodine.		
800	4 4 3 4 4 4 0 4 2 4 4 3 4 4 4—52	
900	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4—59	
1000	4 4 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 4 2 2 3 3 4—51—162	
Major Henry Fulton.		
800	3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4—58	
900	4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 3—57	
1000	3 3 4 4 4 2 0 4 3 4 4 3 4 4 0—46—161	
G. W. Yale.		
800	2 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—57	
900	2 3 4 4 3 3 3 4 3 4 4 3 4 4 4—52	
1000	4 3 4 3 4 3 4 4 3 3 2 4 4 3—51—160	
R. C. Coleman.		
800	4 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 3 4—56	
900	3 4 4 0 4 4 4 3 3 4 4 0 3 4 4—48	
1000	3 3 4 4 2 4 4 3 4 4 3 2 4 4 4—52—156	
Total score of the American team		967

SCORES OF THE IRISH TEAM.		Totals.
Mr. James Wilson.		
Yards.		
800	4 4 4 4 3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—58	
900	3 3 4 2 4 4 3 3 4 3 3 3 4 4—50	
1000	4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 2 3—55—163	

		Mr. Edmond Johnson.
800	...	3 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—58
900	...	4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 3 4 3 3—54
1000	...	3 4 3 3 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 3 4 3 3—50—162
		Dr. J. B. Hamilton.
800	...	3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 3 3 4 4—56
900	...	3 3 3 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4—54
1000	...	3 3 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 3 3 4 4 0 4—51—161
		Mr. J. Pollock.
800	...	4 4 4 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4—59
900	...	4 3 4 4 4 3 4 4 2 4 3 3 4 4 3—53
1000	...	4 3 4 3 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 0 3 4—49—161
		Mr. John M'Kenna.
800	...	0 3 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 3 4 4—52
900	...	2 0 3 3 4 4 3 4 0 3 4 4 3 3 4—44
1000	...	4 4 4 3 4 4 3 3 3 4 3 3 4 4—53—149
		Mr. J. K. Milner.
800	...	0 4 4 4 4 3 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 4—55
900	...	0 0 4 4 4 0 3 0 0 3 3 4 4 4 4—37
1000	...	3 4 0 4 4 3 3 4 0 3 0 4 3 3 3—41—133

Total scores by Irish Team	929
Total American Score	967
Total Irish Score	920

Won by 38

The Irishmen all used Rigby's muzzle-loading rifles; the Americans used Remington's and Sharp's sporting rifles. By a glance at the foregoing table it will be seen that the overwhelming defeat of the Irish is due to Milner and M'Kenna, who seem to have unaccountably broken down under the grand test, after having done splendid shooting in their previous practice. Rigby would have been a much more reliable shot than either of them. When the last bullet was fired, and the final result announced, cheer after cheer rung out for the victors from the forty thousand persons assembled on the sandy strip of sea-beach which constitutes the range. American and Irish flags fluttered in every direction, and the victorious team was positively amazed at the enthusiastic warmth of the greeting accorded it. The fact is, as already been mentioned, that the Irish Rifle Club is pro-British in sympathy; for with reason the great mass of the people were delighted to see Uncle Sam triumphant.

THE CREEDMOOR SCORES OF 1874.

A clearer idea of the comparative strength and capacity of the rival teams will be gained by measuring their last week's work beside which was achieved in the first international match at Creedmoor, September 26, 1874. Accordingly, we append the aggregate scores made on that occasion:—

AMERICAN TEAM—1874.				
Contestants.	800yds.	900yds.	1000yds.	Total.
Henry Fulton	58	57	56	171
G. W. Yale	55	56	51	162
John Bodine	54	51	53	158
H. A. Gildersleeve	53	51	51	155
L. L. Hepburn	53	50	46	149
T. S. Dakin	53	45	41	139
Total Score of American Team				934
IRISH TEAM—1874.				
John Rigby	52	56	55	163
J. B. Hamilton	58	52	50	160
James Wilson	54	51	55	160
J. K. Milner	57	49	48	154
Edmond Johnson	50	49	51	150
P. Walker	46	55	43	144
Total American Score, 1874				934
Total Irish Score				931

When the Irish shot for and won the Elcho Shield in 1873, at Wimbledon, defeating England, Wales, and Scotland, the total score of their six highest marksmen was only 214. At Creedmoor last year they scored 17 points better, making 931 to 934 of their competitors—which was the best shooting on record up to that time. But now at Dollymount, while the Irish fall only two points below their Creedmoor score, the Americans outstrip their former achievement by 33 points, making the unparalleled record of 967 out of a possible 1,080! The marksmen and rifle-manufacturers of the United States naturally rejoice over so signal a victory won by American nerve and American arms; and the Irish people don't seem a whit disconcerted or annoyed at the result. That the whole affair will be fruitful of augmented good-will and fraternal sympathy, is indicated in the comments of the press both in Ireland and the United States.

On the following day there was another competition at the range, for the Spencer Cup, "open to all comers." Nearly all the members of both teams, with many fresh riflemen from various quarters, entered for the prize. It was borne away by an American, R. C. Coleman, who scored 47 out of a possible 50 at 1000 yards distance. The Lloyd's of London have offered a fifty-guinea cup to be contested for at Wimbledon by English, Irish, Scotch, and American eighters at the time of the Elcho Challenge Shield match. That will be the grand trial of skill, nerve, and endurance. A brief despatch, dated July 1, announces that Major Leech has resigned the Captaincy of the Irish team, which would seem to indicate a want of harmony. Very many people will regret this, as Major Leech was a general favorite wherever he went.

In shooting for the All Ireland Challenge Shield, on July 3, the American team was beaten, and the Shield was won by the Dublin Club. The following was the score:—