

SHOOTING UNDER WATER.

MAJOR-GENERAL VON UCHATIUS, the inventor of the new field gun adopted in the Austrian army, publishes in the *Vienna Artillery and Engineer Journal* an account of some interesting experiments recently made by him with the object of ascertaining the effect produced by firing a rifle under water.

It is known, he says, that fishes, when they are not too much below the surface of the water, can be shot from the shore or from a boat. The armour plates of ships of war, however, do not usually extend any lower than two or three metres below the surface, as beyond that depth ships are regarded as unassailable even by the largest shot. This is so, no doubt, when the shot is fired above water; but Major-General Von Uchatius wished to find the result, which would be attained by firing under water.

For this purpose he procured a wooden raft, to the under surface of which a Werndi rifle was attached with iron clamps in such a manner that when the raft floated on the water the rifle was fired horizontally at a depth of half a metre below the surface. An attendant then opened the lock, introduced a cartridge, placed the rifle at full-cock, and fired it from the shore by means of a string attached to the trigger. The target consisted of a wooden board an inch thick.

The result of the experiment was as follows: There was no difficulty in loading and firing the rifle, and there was the advantage that after each shot the inside of the barrel was cleaned by the water. About thirty shots were fired without doing the smallest damage to any part of the rifle. At each shot there was a dull sound, which could not be heard beyond a distance of fifty paces, and bubbles of smoke rose above the surface. At a distance of one and a-half metres no impression whatever was produced on the target; at one and a-quarter metres the bullet entered to a depth of from three, to four millimetres, and at one metre the target was pierced through.

Major-General Uchatius also made some experiments with the view of ascertaining whether a greater effect could be produced by corking up the barrel at its mouth so as to keep the water out, and thereby diminish the resistance to the egress of the bullet; but he found that for all practical purposes the resistance of the compressed air in the barrel was equal to that of the water, the target being penetrated only at the maximum distance of a metre, as in the previous experiment.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

BARON TRISTAN LAMBERT ON THE BROTHERS' SCHOOLS.

[Translated for the *N. Y. Freeman's Journal*.]

BARON TRISTAN LAMBERT, of the Chamber of Deputies, recently delivered at the School of the Christian Brothers at Fontainebleau, an address which we particularly recommend to the attention of our readers:—"I feel highly honoured to-day in presiding over this distribution, which your just satisfaction as deserving pupils, the zeal of your excellent instructors, and the unceasing sympathy of all the noted persons of our city and of our municipal representatives, has always so aptly made, not only a grand occasion, but a genuine family fête. You receive, my dear children, at the Christian Brothers' Schools, the instruction; which, from the diligent students that you now are, will transform you into useful and practical men; the education, which from true and honest children, respectful to their parents, and devoted to their duties, will make you honourable men, and when your time comes, good and excellent heads of families. You receive that Faith, that will make you true and great Christians, and strong men in the full acceptance of the term.

"You fully appreciate these three blessings, these three gifts, which complete one another, and which must absolutely remain inseparable from one another. Everyone, in our town, and wherever free play is given to the devotion of the Brothers of the Christian Doctrine, can judge how much you can do, how much the youth of France can do, to become worthy of these three priceless gifts.

"The crowns that will be conferred upon you, in a few moments; the brilliant and repeated triumphs achieved in Paris and at all the competitions in France by the Brothers' pupils, prove it beyond all cavil, even to those who would willingly ignore it.

"You have the right, then, to be justly proud of your teachers, and most assuredly, notwithstanding the little inequalities in work and discipline, and which are unavoidably inseparable from youth, your instructors have every reason to be proud of you.

"We may say of you both, and with much justice: Like master, like pupil."

THE EMPRESS AUGUSTA AND THE NUNS.

DURING the visit which their Imperial Majesties paid to the Rhenish province last week, Empress Augusta showed a really tender solicitude for the welfare of the few convents that have not yet fallen victims to the Kultur-Kampf. On entering the Catholic Hospital at Kaiserwerth, she greeted the sisters with the Christian salutation so seldom heard from Protestant lips: "Praised be Jesus Christ!" When the Rev. Dauzenberg had finished presenting the sisters of the establishment, her Majesty said: "These then are the children of our never-to-be-forgotten Mother Francisca" (the general-superioress of the order who died last year at Aix-la-Chapelle). After a pause, she continued; "I loved her with all my heart; so much so, that I cannot get over her death yet. I rejoiced when I knew that I should soon come to this convent again, and I am very glad to be here now." Then she requested the Rev. Dauzenberg to conduct her to the chapel, where she knelt down and prayed for a few minutes, just as a good Catholic would have done. She left the convent with the same salutations she had used when entering it. In Dusseldorf the Empress visited St Ann's Institution, where she was received by the protectress of the foundation, Princess Hohenzollern. On leaving the convent she recommended the house in extremely warm terms to the president of the district government and the burgomaster of Dusseldorf, who were present. From here she went to see the Sisters of the Holy

Cross, with whom she stopped a full hour conversing, with exquisite affability, with every one of the humble sisters, several of whom had received distinctions from the Emperor for their admirable conduct in the last war. Whilst her Majesty was thus paying visits to poor nuns, her son, the Crown Prince, spent his time in the society of the Dusseldorf Freemasons, the bitter enemies of nuns and priests. Considering how cruelly the Catholic population is treated by the Emperor's Government, the reception of the Imperial family in Rhenish Prussia was a very cordial one. The Emperor expressed himself highly gratified at it, and sent a Cabinet Order to President von Bernuth to thank his loyal city of Cologne for the magnificent reception he and the Empress met with on their visit to that metropolis. Brühl, Cologne, and other towns through which their Majesties passed were brilliantly illuminated in the evening. After the last grand parade near Euskirchen, the Imperial cortège proceeded by rail to the Niederwald, near Bingen, where the Emperor laid the foundation-stone of the monument which is to be erected in memory of the gallant deeds of the German army and the political success achieved by the German nation. On the 16th of September the Emperor arrived at Carlsruhe, accompanied by numerous princes and generals, who all assisted at the grand review which the Emperor held of the 14th Army Corps.—*Liverpool Catholic Times*.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN.

THE New York correspondent of the *Catholic Union* sends the following:—

"You know George Francis Train. Of course you have heard of the Train who ran for the presidency of the United States in '72. Everybody has heard of him, but his true history has never been told. If you will walk with me over to Madison Square, I will introduce him to you. No, I can only point him out to you, for he never speaks any more to a person over fourteen years of age. However, I notice that he occasionally gets deceived in the age of young ladies, and speaks to those who are two or three years beyond the standard. This eccentricity began two or three years ago, since which he has occupied a bench under one of the trees in Madison Square almost constantly. He appears at his seat, both summer and winter, wet or cold, at precisely six o'clock in the morning, and never leaves it before ten o'clock at night. In dress, except when mused by rain or snow, he is a picture of neatness. A two thousand dollar cluster sparkles from his bosom, and a four hundred dollar watch, hung to his vest by a two hundred dollar chain keeps for him the time of day. He owns a fifty thousand dollar residence in Madison avenue a few rods away, the inside of which he has not seen for three years. In its place, he rents a fourth story hall bedroom to a house in Fourth street, near Second avenue, paying therefore two dollars a week, the money being handed to a ten-year old son of the landlord every Sunday morning. Except in a case of a severe storm, he invariably takes the blankets from his bed and ascending, through the scuttle, sleeps on the roof. His landlord stated to me that during the past year, Train had not missed above forty nights from his roof. Even the coldest nights of last winter found him there. He never wears any covering to his head and allows himself but one regular meal a day, which he takes at half-past five in the morning at a coffee house on Third avenue, opposite Cooper institute. He enters the park in the morning with every pocket crammed with candies, fried cakes and crullers. In a paper bag he parcels out to the children and the birds during the day. The birds partake first of his bounty in the morning. They have become so accustomed to his hospitality that the ground about his seat will be covered with them the moment he arrives. They will alight on his head, shoulders, and eat from his hand, a dozen at a time. The children begin to gather around him at seven o'clock, they are treated with less generosity than the birds, his bag and pockets being of less capacity than their stomachs. Neither the children nor the sparrows seem to think Mr. Train insane. Everybody else about New York does, but a committee of doctors have pronounced him harmless. I think him insane, and the cause I attribute to an excessive and disappointed desire for popularity and fame."

Says the *Dublin Irishman* of September 15th:—There is a difference of opinion amongst Irish journalists as to the wisdom and prudence of Obstruction. The *Freeman*, being wise in its generation, essays a safe course between the rock and the whirlpool. But it thinks Mr. Butt's letter shows more of the advocate's ingenuity than of the statesman's power. The pleader's zeal, says the *Freeman*, taunted Mr. Butt to push his arguments farther than the facts warrant him. Still, the Home Rule organ declares that it is not in favour of Obstruction. Then, it asks, how often has Mr. Butt proved that, for Ireland, the British Constitution is a hollow mockery, and transparent sham. "How often has he appealed in vain to the English Parliament to give Ireland that which she enjoys in name alone—the protection for the British Constitution." In conclusion the *Freeman* asks, "How can Mr. Butt expect the Irish people to share with him his reverence of the British Constitution?" We could expect no favourable criticism from the *Express*, and no one need be surprised that it seizes upon a weak point in Mr. Butt's armour—a point which touches Tories in a sensitive part. The Castle mouthpiece reminds the member for Limerick of his declared intention to dispute the estimates for the Queen's Colleges if his University Bill is not passed next year. The *Express* argues that opposition to the estimates is as unconstitutional as Mr. Parnell's Obstruction, the only difference between the members of Limerick and Meath being one of degree. The most remarkable comments have appeared in the *Saunders*, just where they were least expected. Replying to Mr. Butt's forewarning that Parliament will put down obstruction, the *Saunders* says Obstruction cannot be put down if a considerable number of Irish members join it. It adds—"We think the only direction in which energy, activity, &c., can be applied is in Obstruction. In any other direction they are wasted. We see this so clearly that we refuse to discuss the question any longer."