

RIFLE SHOOTING.

THE OLD KENTUCKY STYLE AND ITS MODERN MODIFICATIONS.

An Interview With a Veteran Rifleman. The Kentucky Hunter's Method of Taking Aim—The Plainsman's Way. German Rifleman—Military Style.

In the palmy days of Creedmore no man was better known on the range than Jim Conlin, the rifleman. The veteran has given up long range shooting, but still talks instructively about handling firearms. "What can you tell about the methods and principles of offhand shooting?" he was asked. "I can begin by telling you to stand while shooting," he replied. "The Kentucky style of offhand shooting was the right thing and hasn't been improved upon. Let us go back to the old original Kentucky shooters of the Daniel Boone type and see how they shot, for they were the first accurate riflemen in the world, and rifle shooting may be said to have been born in the backwoods. Here is a genuine Kentucky squirrel rifle. The barrel is forty inches long—ten inches longer than the sporting rifle of to-day, and there is metal enough in it for a crowbar. The whole piece is four feet eight inches in length and weighs about twelve pounds. The stock runs the whole length of the barrel, same as a musket, and there is a brass box in the butt for patches. It takes a strong man to hold such a gun by its shoulder offhand, because the barrel is so heavy forward. Old Kentucky didn't hold it that way when he could find anything to rest it upon. When he wanted to draw a bead on a redskin he looked for a log or a sapling to rest the barrel against. Powder was powder in those days, and it didn't pay to waste a shot. When there was no sapling handy the Kentucky hunter made use of his ramrod. He always had a history ramrod that he whittled out himself, and was as proud of its perfect shape and finish as a fisherman is of his fancy bamboo fly reel. He would take the ramrod out and hold it in his left hand, with one end against his hip, so as to make a brace to support the weight of the rifle and steady his arm. He would do some pretty fine shooting at short range. The Kentucky rifle carried a ball 30-100 of an inch in diameter, the size of our modern .28 caliber, and was loaded with not over sixty grains of powder, and twenty rods was considered pretty good range for accurate shooting with it offhand. In loading a line patch was used to cover the ball and take the grooves, and as there was but little friction, the ball came out smooth and had a low trajectory at short range.

"Now we get down to the Kentucky style of shooting with a modern sporting rifle. The first thing is to stand erect, feet near together, body easily balanced. Grasp the fore end between the left thumb and forefinger at a point just a trifle forward of where the rifle will balance. The right hand grasps the stock so that the barrel, hand, wrist and forearm are in line, the same as in holding a pistol. Raise the butt to the shoulder so that the curve will just fit, not resting the lower point of the butt against the shoulder as some do. The rifle then falls into the palm of the left hand and the ends of the fingers just touch the right side of the barrel. You don't draw the rifle toward you with the left hand at all, but merely support its weight, with the elbow in a vertical line exactly under the barrel. The right elbow is raised as high as the top of the ear when you drop your cheek against the ball of your thumb, bringing your right eye in with the sights. The right hand draws the rifle firmly against the shoulder, and the fore finger presses, not pulls, the trigger. The Kentucky method of taking aim is to raise the muzzle in line, and shoot when it gets up to the right elevation, although a few shoot on the drop. That is the style of shooting adopted by the best offhand riflemen in the world—the American frontiersman of the past—and I have taught it for a great many years. An old Kentucky method of shooting at the word was to hold the rifle butt against the shoulder, muzzle pointing vertically to the ground, keep the eye fixed upon the mark, and raise the rifle, with the butt as a pivot, quickly to the line of sight.

"The plainsman of to-day holds a rifle differently, but they shoot under somewhat different conditions, and no doubt their style is best adapted to their needs. They extend the left arm to full length, without rigidity, and grasp the barrel well out toward the muzzle. This gives better control over the barrel in shooting at moving objects, and the principle is the same as in trap shooting with a scatter gun. Dr. Carver shoots in this way, and he demonstrates that the extended arm enables the shooter to follow a moving object better with the muzzle and change the line of sight more quickly and accurately. In firing from horseback the advantages of this style are apparent. The nearer the left hand is to the muzzle the less deviation does any accidental or unavoidable movement of the hand and arm make in the aim. If the left hand is close to the trigger guard a movement of half an inch there will move the muzzle an inch and a half at least.

"The German method is radically different from the American. Go to a schutzenfest and notice how the chaps in Kosnath hats and green aprons handle their rifles. They are great fellows for shooting with a rest, but they do get down to offhand work. The German balances his rifle on the ends of his left thumb and fingers, with his elbow resting on his left hip. The left foot is advanced and the body bent backward a little to give the hip rest for the elbow. The right hand barely grasps the stock, but the arm is relaxed and very little power is exerted by the muscles to press the butt against the shoulder. A hair trigger is used, and a mere touch fires the rifle. The Germans do some good shooting, but you can't call that sort of thing holding a rifle. It is simply balancing the piece and touching the trigger; and it would be impracticable for sporting end quick shooting. Sometimes a German rifleman has a handle about six inches long which he attaches to the under side of the rifle just forward of the guard. The end of this contrivance rests in the palm of his left hand, and in that way he gets a much hip rest without loading his body so much, and at the same time raises the barrel to the level of his eye. On some occasions German riflemen shoot in the American way in this country, but the method I have described is peculiarly German, and is adhered to by schutzen corps as a rule.

"The approved military style of holding a rifle comes nearer to the Kentucky than any other, the principal difference being that the right elbow is not raised higher than the shoulder. The left hand may be anywhere forward of the lock plate, but the best position is at the point where the gun will balance on the palm of the hand. It is better forward than back of that point. If the point of support is too far back, the weight of the barrel is increased by leverage, and a totally unnecessary amount of strength is wasted in resisting the tendency of the barrel to drop. The extra strain upon the muscles is liable to cause unsteadiness and trembling, and a very little movement of the arm will spoil the aim. The German style would not do for a soldier at all. Having a gun that kicks like a mule, he must follow the Kentucky idea of holding it firmly against his shoulder with his hand and forearm."—New York Sun.

ANCIENT ISRAEL IN IRELAND.

Did the Jews Contribute to the Population of a Great Many Years Ago?

Respecting the Anglo-Israeli mania, a self-evident and undeniable proof of an early settlement of Israelitic tribes in the United Kingdom is afforded by names of towns, of a nature which historians as well as ethnologists admit. Every body will agree that Dover, for instance, is nothing else than a dialectical form of the locality Debr (Joshua xiii, 53, Edinburgh is no doubt the Eden town, and, in fact, there is an Edenic view from that town. Eboracum (York) is either the town of Eber or else Ebrah, "the blessed town," with a Latin termination. But let us take London, whose derivation is still doubtful; as a Hebrew name we shall find it to be Landan, "the dwelling of Dan." Old London was, therefore, inhabited by the Danites (perhaps a part of them went over to Denmark, although not yet claimed by the Danes). In the name of Dublin is most likely to be found a reversed form, that name seeming to be Dublin, the dwelling of Dub or Dok. This word, which means usually in Hebrew a bear, could dialectically mean a wolf (hardly from Zoolo). The wolf represents the tribe of Benjamin (Genesis xlii, 27, consequently a part of the Benjaminites settled in Dublin, and that perhaps in the time of Jeremiah, who, it is known, came over to Ireland, married an Irish princess, and brought over a copy of the law, which is now buried in the Mount Tara (from Thorah, the law). The tribal characteristic of "ravening as a wolf" still continues to mark the descendants. It is not unlikely that Phoenicians settled also in England, which has long been suspected from the frequently employed word Dal as a prefix in Celtic localities. Could not Sydenham mean "the home of the Sidonians?"—A. Neubauer in Notes and Queries.

Interviewing Henry Ward Beecher.

There are probably but few newspaper reporters in this city that have not interviewed Henry Ward Beecher. The Plymouth pastor enjoys great popularity among the reporters, for he is accessible, genial, and, as a rule, talkative. He is always ready to engage in a harmless bit of chaff with the newspaper men, but he will not brook insolence. The last mentioned fact was recently impressed upon the alleged mind of a swaggering youngster who said that he represented a Brooklyn paper. A rumor that Mr. Beecher was dead got started in some unaccountable manner and spread like wildfire. Reporters by the score hurried to Mr. Beecher's house and were there confronted by the famous preacher hale and hearty. After a while along came a young man who said to Mr. Beecher with an impudent grin that he had been sent by the city editor of The Brooklyn Times to find out whether Beecher was alive or dead.

A New Heredity Needed.

All wise reform must commence with recognizing the fact of heredity, and that by that law human life is multiplied, and by it they may be diminished. It will do little good to work for individuals here and there. Such conditions must be created as shall make a new heredity possible. That cannot be accomplished without improving the environment of those to be reached. If men live in good houses, drink pure water, are accustomed to frequent sight and contact with those who are worthy of honor, have given to them the inspirations which are essential to the best development, the result will be manifested in the next generation. The generation following the French revolution was distinguished by such an epidemic of nervous diseases as had never been known in French history. It was the result of the terrific strain upon mind and heart and nerve of those delirious years.—Amory H. Bradford in Andover Review.

A Mysterious Society "Man."

A Boston man writes from Paris to a friend: "You know, of course, the exceedingly heavy volumes of descriptions of society in the European capitals, written by a certain mysterious and exceedingly outspoken Count Paul Vasil, that have appeared! Well, I have found out the identity of this mysterious 'Count Paul.' It is none other than Mme. Juliette Adam, the versatile and vivacious directress of The Nouvelle Revue, whose salon is the center of all literary Paris. She has been absent a good deal of late, and—well, when a Parisian editor wrote to ask Mme. for an article the other day, she inadvertently sent him an unpublished manuscript of Count Paul Vasil. The editor charged her at once with being the 'man' whom all Europe was speculating about, and she sent him an answer which dodges without denying."—New York Post.

Treatment of Whooping Cough.

The following method of disinfection of sleeping and dwelling apartments and clothes is recommended by M. Mohr in the treatment of whooping cough. It is said to cure the cases immediately. The children are washed and clothed in clean articles of dress and removed to another part of the town. The bed room and sitting room or nursery are then hermetically sealed; all the bedding, playthings and other articles that cannot be washed are exposed freely in the room, in which sulphur is burned in the proportion of twenty-five grams to the cubic meter of space. The room remains thus charged with sulphurous acid for five hours, and is then freely ventilated. The children return the same day, and may sleep and play in the disinfected rooms.—Lancet.

Origin of the Custom.

Foreign Actor—The final tableau of my play is invariably spoiled by American auditors. Omnia Man—Why, in what way? By the noise and confusion. The very moment the curtain begins to fall the people jump up, look for wraps, fans and what not, and these who are ready start out, completely ruining the effect.

Equal and Exact Justice.

Lieutenant Governor Jones, who pays the freight, has informed his employes in the Birmingham scale factory that during the present year he means to share his profits with them. This is the equal and exact justice that might be expected at all times of a manufacturer of scales.—New York World.

Modjeska's Native Land.

Mrs. Modjeska says she will not return to Poland to live because she can do nothing there, Russian tyranny is so great. She wants to live where she can take an active interest in whatever is going on about her.—New York Tribune.

THE SON OF A LORD.

A YOUNG ENGLISHMAN IS TAKEN SOMEWHAT BY SURPRISE.

A Young Miss Takes the Conceit Out of a Young Briton of Noble Blood—Seeing the United States on the "Two Day" Plan.

The mention of Florida recalls the experience of some young Englishmen who came to Washington for two days on their way to that land of oranges and alligators and who stayed here two months. They got into official society and found it so attractive that they could not get away. One young Briton, apparently not many years above 21, and the son of a "real lord," but traveling as modest Mr. —, went out to make calls last week. The daughter of a well known hostess had several young women assisting her, and with these he proved a voluble and unflagging talker. Finally, to give him variety and relieve one of the assistants, the hostess said to a caller: "Do let me introduce that young man over there. I want to get Miss A. away from him, and he shows no signs of giving up."

The introduction was made, bows were exchanged and the son of a "real lord" was left with the other woman. "And what are you doing in Washington, if I may ask the question?" were the first words of the young man, as he gave one sweeping inclusive glance, from her tall bonnet down to the hem of her gown. "Oh, I am doing what most other women are doing—making calls," she replied, with a flash of quickness, and showing no surprise at the unexpected and abrupt question.

HE WAS SET BACK.

The surprise was on the other side, and for an instant he was set back by her readiness. "Ah—oh—don't you know—that's really very good," he said, laughing, and recovering himself. "And what are you doing in Washington, if I may ask the question?" she added the next moment, and giving him a second start. "Ah—oh—really, you Americans are very quick, don't you know," he answered, a trifle subdued, and in rather more of a tone of respectful deference. "I will tell you. I have just come across to look about a little. Spent two days in New York, you know. Ran on here for two days, and well—really, there is a good deal in your towns, you know. Quite a lot to see."

"Two days in New York and two in Washington! Is it possible, Mr. —, there are two whole days of sightseeing in either city for an Englishman? Oh, I understand. You have just run over to get thoroughly acquainted with us, and will then run home to England and write a book about America. Of course this accounts for your long stay in New York and two whole days at our capital! But I'm so glad you find a lot to see."

"Ah—oh—really now. You can't mean to be so hard on a fellow. I should never, you know, give my impressions without really knowing America. I was just going to say that really, after two days here, your capital is so very charming we couldn't get away. Really we couldn't. And we went down to the looking office and the fellows fixed it all right with the tickets. Now, instead of two days, we're really been in Washington seven weeks. It's a fact. I wouldn't believe it myself if I didn't know it, you see. Seven weeks! But we really, you know, must get off to Florida next week. Sorry; Washington is very delightful; people charming, you know."

"And, of course, you go to Chicago. No book on America is complete without Chicago, the big city of the west. Oh, you know, go west, she said. He was rising rapidly in her estimation, and she was a little sorry she had been sarcastic. The next minute down he went again, as he said: "Ah—oh—yes. I have heard of Chicago, you know. Quite a town, of course. But really, Miss —, I can't fancy how you discovered I thought of writing a book. Now, really, you know. Do I look like it? How did you happen on that?"

"Oh, you all do it. You come over on the two-day plan of seeing the country. And you've all heard of Chicago. So you go home and write about us, when you really don't know anything about America or Americans, after all," she said, squarely and frankly. "She had come up in his estimation as fast as he had gone down in hers. He was taken by her offhand manner of talking and quick understanding. He was about to conclude his call, and as he turned to go he said seriously and wholly without his former concealed air: "I will tell you what we do know, and we are not slow in learning it, you know, either."

The Alaskan's Riches.

Alaskan Indians do not reckon wealth by the amount of money or gold a person possesses, but rate a man as worth as many blankets. A government blanket sells in the stores everywhere throughout the country at the nominal price of \$4. It is never more, never less. If an Indian gets hold of \$20 and desires to save it, he buys five blankets and adds them to the store he already possesses. An Indian who owns 2,000 blankets is immensely wealthy, and is looked upon as a nabob by the poor members of his tribe. This is the currency of the realm among the Indians, and is recognized by the whites as well in trading with them.—Lieut. H. T. Monahan in Brooklyn Eagle.

Purpose of the Ballet.

Twelve-year-old Miss—The opera was very long, wasn't it, mamma? Mamma—Yes, daughter, and very stylish. Miss—The ballet girls don't sing, do they, mamma? Mamma—No daughter. Miss—Why do they have the ballet then, mamma? Papa—To make the opera as broad as it is long, daughter. Don't ask any more questions.—Washington Critic.

Second Hand Gravestones.

Buffalo has a client who deals in second hand gravestones. He buys old ones, causes the letters and engraves new inscriptions to order. "Lots of people seem to want to sell," he is reported as saying, "and plenty of others are willing to buy when they can get a good article so cheap."

Distance Lends Enchantment.

Mobile has a brass band with a conscience. It goes out in the suburbs on a Sunday and hides itself in the woods to practice. At a distance of two or three miles the music is simply enchanting.—Mobile Register.

The newest craze in New York city is for white furniture.

Railroads.

Table with columns: Railroad Name, Direction, Time Table, and Arrival/Departure times for various routes including Bald Eagle Valley R.R., Westward, Eastward, and Snow Shoe Int.

Table for Bellefonte & Snow Shoe R.R. showing time tables for Westward and Eastward directions, including stops like Snow Shoe, Bellefonte, and Mifflinburg.

Table for Lewisburg & Tyrone R.R. showing time tables for Westward and Eastward directions, including stops like Tyrone, Lewisburg, and Mifflinburg.

Table for Pennsylvania Railroad (Phila. & Erie Division) showing time tables for Westward and Eastward directions, including stops like Erie, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia.

Table for Erie Mail and Niagara Express showing time tables for various routes, including Erie, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia.

Table for Erie Mail and Lock Haven Express showing time tables for Erie, Harrisburg, and Philadelphia.

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