

THE WHIP IN RIFLE BARRELS.

It is Caused by the Pressure of Modern High Power Powder.

The use of high power powder in rifles has given rise to a phenomenon which did not exist in black powder days. This is known as "whip" and is due to the pressure and vibration set up by the powder. It is constant with given loads and is always in the same direction.

Sights are altered by the manufacturer to compensate for this whip in proportion to the powder charge used. In firing auxiliary cartridges it will often be found that the rifle shoots off center. As a matter of fact the bullet from the auxiliary is traveling in a true line with the bore, and it is the sights that are wrong. The lighter charge of the auxiliary does not provide the same whip with the result that the line in projection of the bore of the rifle along which the bullet travels is not the line given by the alignment of the sights.

Two other rifle traits that must not be confused are spottiness and keyholing. Keyholing is the tendency of the bullet to rise over the sight. While spottiness is the slight scattering of the bullet due to the force of the charge. It was peculiar to black powder and behind lead bullets and does not exist in any appreciable extent in modern designed rifles with smokeless powder. In the latter case the charge burns more evenly and the jacket will follow the bullet against the wooden case from behind—striking.

ORIGIN OF THE PERISCOPE.

The Reflecting Telescope Used at the Siege of Sebastopol.

Speaking of the origin of the periscope, the following account from the writings of the well known inventor of "Pepper's Ghost" gives the credit to the various professions. Pepper wrote soon after the Crimean war:

"During the siege of Sebastopol numbers of our best artificers were successively placed off by the enemy rifles as well as by cannon shot, and in order to get a view of the fortifications and incursions of the men a very ingenious contrivance was invented by the Rev. William Taylor, the conductor of Mr. Fremont in constructing the first 'Big Ben' bell. It was called the reflecting apparatus, and by its simple construction rendered the exposure of the sailors and soldiers who would look over the parapet or other parts of the works to observe the effect of their shots perfectly unnecessary, while another form was constructed for the purpose of allowing the gunner to 'lay or aim his gun in safety.'

"The instruments were shown to Lord Pauncefote, who was so convinced of the importance of the invention that he immediately commissioned the Rev. William Taylor to have a number of these telescopes constructed, and if the siege had not terminated just at the time the invention was to have been used no doubt a great saving of the valuable lives of the skilled artificers would have been effected."—London Express.

Gam's Dry Humor.

When the gallant Welsh captain, David Gam, was sent forward by Henry V. to reconnoiter the French army before the battle of Agincourt he found that the enemy outnumbered the English by about five to one. His report to the king is historic:

"There are enough to be killed, enough to be taken prisoners and enough to run away."

This quaint forecast of the result of the battle at once spread through the camp, and doubtless every yeoman member of the valiant company felt an inch taller. We know that it was almost literally justified by the event. Poor Gam's dry humor was equaled by his courage. He was killed while in the act of saving the life of his prince.—London Standard.

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VICTORIA'S LETTERS.

Royal Secrets That Are Stored Away in Buckingham Palace.

"We may wonder if the world will ever be allowed to see the private correspondence amassed by the late Queen Victoria," says a writer. It is stored away in a strong room built into the walls of Buckingham palace, and the queen shared her confidence with no one.

So long as she was physically able to do so she opened and closed the safe herself and arranged its contents. When she was too feeble to do this she employed an old and trusted secretary, but even he had to work under the royal eye. He was never allowed to keep the keys nor to read the letters that he handled.

Queen Victoria was always a voluminous letter writer, and she was in constant communication with most of the royalties in Europe. Every domestic secret and project of policy during half a century is said to be reflected by the contents of this wonderful safe, and it is easy to believe that the modern historian would find his hands full if he were permitted to browse among these letters.

But probably he will have to wait a few hundred years, and then his popular audience will have passed on. It is one of the ironies of life that we can never see a thing when we want it.—Pittsburgh Press.

A Royal Snake Slaughterer.

The "secretary bird" is one of the most poisonous birds in South Africa. It is a forest game, and any person who destroys one is liable to a fine of £50. Midge-like looking birds, they stand about three feet high and generally go in pairs. They are of drab color, with black, feathery legs, and are valued for their propensity for killing snakes. When the secretary bird is seen there are said to be many reptiles about. The bird beats down its adversary first with one wing and then with the other, at the same time tramping on it with its feet until the snake is sufficiently stunned to catch it by the head with its claws. Then the bird rises for up in the air and drops its victim to the ground to be killed. By this means thousands of venomous reptiles are destroyed.—London Scripps.

Carrots.

Carrots were first introduced into England by Flemish gardeners in the time of Elizabeth, and in the reign of James I they were still so precious that ladies wore bunches of them on their hats and on their sleeves instead of feathers.

Much Entertained.

Said Cholly—I have just been looking over a volume of revised statutes. Quoth Algy—Well, Cholly—I had no idea there were so many interesting ways of breaking the law.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The lessons of life are lost if they do not impress us with the necessity of making ample allowances for the immature conclusions of others.

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Well Filled.

"Yes, grandma, I am to be married next month." "But, my dear," said grandma earnestly, "you are very young. Do you feel that you are fitted for married life?" "I am being fitted now, grandma," explained the prospective bride sweetly. "Seven gowns!"—Kansas City Journal.

More Than the Average.

Mrs. Wayup—How much sleep do I need, doctor? Doctor—Well, the average person needs about seven hours. Mrs. Wayup—Then I shall take about fourteen. I consider I am much above the average.—Judge.

Spiritual Victory.

If after victory on the field of battle we fail to win spiritual victory and to have ideas where they truly should be the heroism of our soldiers will have done no more than postpone our own catastrophe for a few years.—St. Paul Saharier.

Duty makes us do things well, but love makes us do them beautifully.—Phillips Brooks.



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The Tuxedo Hour by Walt Mason

Tuxedo's bully all the time; it makes the passing hours sublime, and by its soft and gracious curves it soothes the soul and rests the nerves, and fills my bosom, once again, with peace on earth, good will to men. But best I like it when I've fed this face of mine with jam and bread. When I have dined on Irish stew and beans and boiled potatoes, too, and pie and eggs and cheese and tripe, 'tis then I best enjoy my pipe. When from the table I withdraw, I grip my briar with my jaw, and fill it with Tuxedo mild—the pure Tuxedo undefiled—and smoke away in perfect bliss; no pleasure can compare with this. And in the curling smoke I see a world that seemeth good to me. A world that's debonair and gay, its woes and worries done away. The plans that seemed foredoomed to fail, the work that seemed of no avail, now wear the rosy glow of hope, and I endorse all sunshine dope. 'Tis thus in my Tuxedo hour; the world that seemed so dark and dour, is blooming like a rose of spring, and I'm in mood to laugh and sing.

Walt Mason

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