

The Rochester Rifle Battery.

An exhibition of the terrible power and effect of this implement of war was made yesterday afternoon on the river near the Upper Landing. The object of the trial was to demonstrate the effect of this battery to the Military Committee and citizens, including some who had signified a desire to see a flank company attached to the Monroe County Regiment to work ten of these instruments. The exhibition was attended by one hundred or more including some practical men who understand the nature and power of fire arms. The trial was a most decided success.

The battery used was one made here by William Billingham last fall, and the same which was shown and tested at Washington by order of the Ordnance Department. It consists of twenty-five heavy rifle barrels mounted upon wheels and so arranged that the barrels diverge or converge so as to concentrate or scatter the fire. The change of position of the barrels is instantly made and all are discharged at the same instant and by a single cap. The battery has been fully described in these columns before and the description need not be repeated.

The trial yesterday was made first on a distance of about 600 yards, and then increased to a mile. A barrel was anchored so as to float near the middle of the river below the old docks, and the battery was located near the head of Buell Avenue. Single shots from the centre barrel of the battery were fired to show the accuracy of the piece and then volleys from the whole. So rapid was the firing that it was an easy matter to keep two sets of balls in the air at the same time. It required about eight seconds for a volley to pass from the battery to the target, and the instrument can be loaded and discharged in less than that time. It was demonstrated to the satisfaction of all present at this trial that four men could operate this battery, discharging not less than one hundred and fifty balls per minute, and had an army of ten thousand men attempted to march up the gorge of the river before it, this terrible instrument could have kept them in check at a mile distant. The striking of the balls upon the water across the width of the river showed what the effect would be upon a column of men placed before this battery.

The target was brought up badly riddled by bullets, showing that the shots seldom missed even so small a target as a barrel floating upon the water, a mile distant.

This battery was the joint invention of Rochester men. Messrs. Mack & Requa first brought it out and got it patented. Mr. Billingham then took an interest in the machine, made improvements and constructed one for trial. So in the absence of any single name, we call it the Rochester Battery, for it is a Rochester invention. Dr. Requa took the battery to Washington last spring and had it tested by experienced men from the Ordnance Department and the reports were the most flattering that have ever been given to an invention for war purposes. Capt. Dalghren endorsed the battery fully and Col. Gilmer, of Pulaski fame, a fine engineer, gave it his positive endorsement, and what is more, he is to have four batteries to be used by his regiment in the field, in a few days.

Mr. Cyrus Bradley of Washington, finding that this Battery was regarded as a success by the military men in authority, purchased with another gentlemen the control of the matter and it is now under his direction. He had it here on exhibition yesterday and took it to Buffalo to-day. A number of the batteries are being made—the rifle barrels by Remington, the celebrated rifle maker at Illion, the carriages at Troy and other parts of the work in Connecticut. Col. Gilmer will have the first four that are completed.

It is hoped that the company organizing here for the New Monroe County Regiment will secure the ten next ready. As this is a Rochester invention, a Rochester company ought to be first to take it to the field.

Capt. Dalghren reported that four men with this battery would do the work of eighty with single arms, and that is a sufficient illustration of its value.

It will be seen by an advertisement that Capt. Mack and Lieut. Curtis are recruiting a company for this battery to go into the Monroe County Regiment. Capt. Mack is the inventor of the battery, and Lieut. Curtis has served in the army of the southwest, both good men for the places they take.