

helmets, and guns, of a rare and ancient description, present a grand vista to the visitor on his entrance. Models of cities and harbours, of dockyards and ships, of forts and mountains, and whole countries, are profusely arranged about. On a shield on the south side of the pillar is the following inscription:—

“1819. This room, first erected, by order of the Prince Regent, in the Gardens of the Palace of Carlton House, to receive the Allied Sovereigns, when their Majesties visited England at the glorious Peace in 1814, is now given by his Royal Highness to the Royal Military Repository, for the reception of the Models belonging to this establishment, and of the Arms and other Trophies taken by the British Army in Paris, on the triumphant entry of Field Marshal the Duke of Wellington into that city in 1815.”

To it were transferred, in 1820, the remains of the repository which was founded in the arsenal in 1778, and which was destroyed by fire in 1802. The museum abounds in records of the fertile invention of Sir W. Congreve, and his equally remarkable son. The visitor will notice outside guns of various nations, chiefly from China. On entering, his attention will be arrested by the models of Plymouth and Sheerness dockyards on his left, while on the right he will see stands of arms with specimens of every rifle in existence. Further on will be seen the rocket apparatus designed by Colonel Congreve for saving life from wrecks. Here also will be noticed a collection of Australian weapons. On the left is a case of incendiary and explosive projectiles, ancient and modern, from the old fire-arrow and hand-grenade of rough glass, to the most improved shells of the present day. A wonderful cinder is generally kept in this case. It is all that was left when the old £1 notes were destroyed. Notes to the value of £100,000 were burnt in a stove, and this is the cinder. A short distance from these objects, on the left, are models of Chatham dockyard and an old cannon foundry, and a little further on is one of Gibraltar, thirty-six feet in length. In a recessed apartment on the right hand is a French brass feed gun and equipment, presented by the late Emperor Napoleon III., in 1858. At the entrance of the recess, on a pedestal, is a curious instrument for measuring time. It is said to be the nearest approach to “perpetual motion” yet discovered. Still advancing, the visitor will find, on the right, a collection of North American tomahawks, snow-shoes, &c. On the table is a beautiful set of models, twenty-two in number, of a battery of Russian artillery, presented by the Czar to the Duke of Wellington in 1834. We now come to the most interesting relic in the museum—an ancient

“gonne,” probably of the 14th century. This is one of the earliest guns known to exist, and it was used for throwing stone balls, specimens of which are exhibited close by. It was found in the moat at Bodiam Castle, and was for many years exhibited at Battle Abbey. Near the door are some curious old English artillery and ammunition, discovered in the Isle of Walney, upon the western coast of Lancashire. They were found buried in the sand, at a place only accessible at low water. When first discovered, the largest gun was quite perfect, and measured ten feet in length; the breech was in the centre; it fires both ways, and had two rings near the muzzles to sling it by. This piece is formed of thick plates of iron, hooped. The second piece, also with rings, is a culverin, and quite perfect; it is formed of bars of wrought-iron, hooped together. The third and fourth are chambers, and supposed to be charged with gunpowder; they are of wrought-iron. There are a number of stone balls, the greater part of granite, one of sandstone, and others of clay, iron, and limestone. “It is evident,” says an authority on such subjects, “that these are the earliest guns on record, being supposed to have been on board one of the ships which accompanied Richard II. in his expedition to Ireland, 1239, when a terrible and disastrous storm happened to his fleet and army, under the command of Sir John Arundel, by which twenty-five vessels were wrecked, and Sir John and upwards of a thousand men perished.” Mention may be made also of a smooth-bore arquebus, dated 1537, and said to have belonged to Henry VIII. It is remarkable for the resemblance of the breech mechanism to that of the Snider breech-loader of the present day.

We now quit the Rotunda, our eyes almost satiated with gazing on trophies and curiosities, naval and military. But a parting glance at a number of old guns lying on the ground outside, makes us inquire their story. Some of them are the guns of the *Mary Rose*, sunk at Spithead in 1645. Another is the gun that exploded in the casting at the foundry at Moorfields, and was the reputed cause of that department being transferred to Woolwich. Near the gate are two guns, with three barrels each, taken from the French, at the battle of Malplaquet, in 1700, by the Duke of Marlborough.

On the south-western part of the common, and to the left of the road leading to Shooter's Hill and Eltham, stands the Royal Military Academy. The building is in the castellated form, and was erected about the beginning of the present century, from a design by Sir J. Wyattville. It