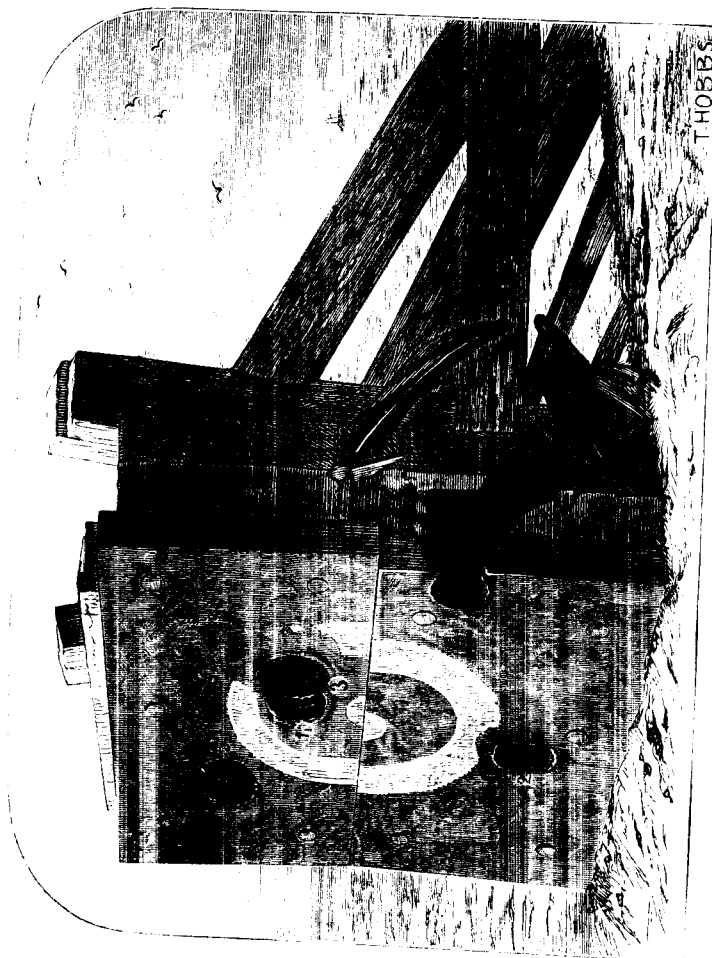


FRONTISPIECE.



No. 1 Shot passed
82 yards beyond.
No. 2 Shot passed
440 yards beyond.
No. 3 Shot passed
185 yards beyond.

No. 4 Shot passed
1475 yards beyond.
No. 5 Shot passed
384 yards beyond.
The charge in all
cases was 30 lbs.



THE AGINCOURT TARGET.—EFFECTS OF THE MACKAY GUN AT 200 YARDS.
The Target comprises the frame and skin of the iron ship, faced with 9-inch teak and $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch armour plates.

SHOEBURYNESS

AND

8/20/9
3/2

THE GUNS:

A PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE.

BY

P. BARRY,

AUTHOR OF "DOCKYARD ECONOMY AND NAVAL POWER;" "THE DOCKYARDS,
SHIPYARDS, AND MARINE OF FRANCE," ETC.



"The Commons, faithful to their system, remained in a wise and masterly inactivity."—SIR J. MACKINTOSH, *Viadicæ Gallicæ*.

"When you wish to walk, do you stand motionless until you have a confused notion of all the sciences connected with the laws of locomotion."—*Tit for Tat*.

LONDON:

SAMPSON LOW, SON, AND MARSTON, 14, LUDGATE HILL.

1865.

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FRONTISPIECE.

No. 1 Shot passed
82 yards beyond.

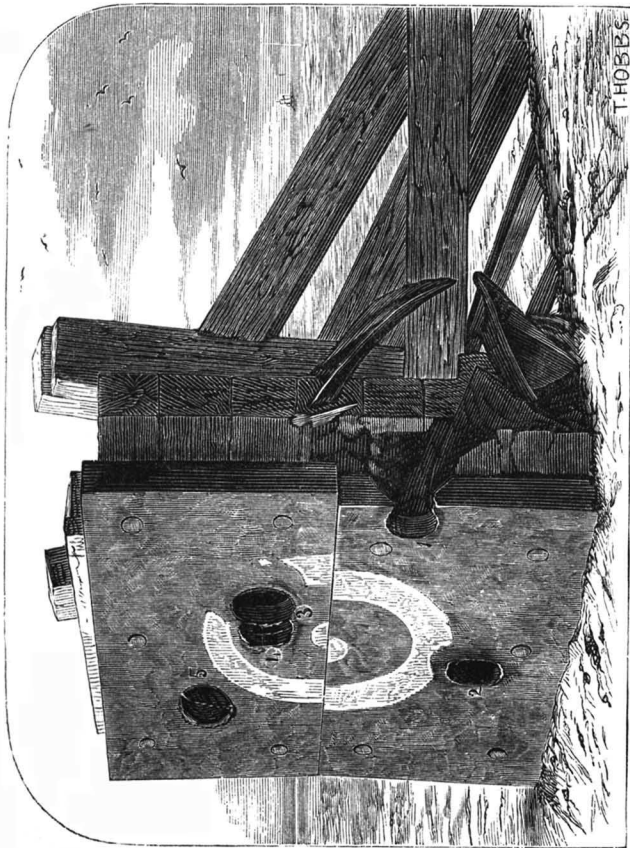
No. 2 Shot passed
440 yards beyond.

No. 3 Shot passed
185 yards beyond.

No. 4 Shot passed
1475 yards beyond.

No. 5 Shot passed
384 yards beyond.

The charge in all
cases was 30 lbs.



THE AGINCOURT TARGET.—EFFECTS OF THE MACKAY GUN AT 200 YARDS.

The Target comprises the frame and skin of the iron ship, faced with 9-inch teak and 5½-inch armour plates.

SHOEBURYNESSE

AND

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1865.

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A

Dedication.

TO

EARL DE GREY AND RIPON, SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR WAR,

I BEG TO DEDICATE THESE PAGES.

BECAUSE MY RELATIONS WITH THE WAR-OFFICE HAVE BEEN ALWAYS CORDIAL.

BECAUSE I BELIEVE

HIS LORDSHIP IS ANXIOUS TO DISCHARGE HIS DUTY.

AND BECAUSE I BELIEVE

HE STANDS IN NEED OF THE STRAIGHTFORWARD TESTIMONY WHICH I, AS A MEMBER
OF THE FOURTH ESTATE, HAVE GIVEN

LONDON:
PRINTED BY WILLIAM ODAMS, BURLINGHEAD STREET
STRAND, W.C.

PREFACE.

I have advisedly appended the term philosophical discourse to the title to set myself right with the public. The books which I have written on dockyards and this book on guns are not off-hand criticisms, but serious, although humble efforts, to rescue the great public questions with which I deal from the lofty pretension, the unmeaning words, and the mystification of those who desire to appear learned, and who find it advantageous, professionally advantageous, to practise imposition. A philosophical discourse is a true discourse, representing fact as it is, and not as it appears to be, nor as it may be conceived to be. It takes truth as it finds it, and presents to the understanding the material for a sound, a common sense, and an exhaustive judgment. The man who reads this book will know as much of guns—that is, the use of them—as Sir William Armstrong, Mr. Whitworth, the Director-General of Ordnance, or Lord De Grey.

It is an ungracious task discussing the subject-matter of this book as I have done. I will have made to myself no end of enemies, and very likely not a single friend. But it is something, indeed it is a great reward,