say, the famous art of archery, by which the English had won such fame in the world, was gradually superseded.

AN ENGLISH ARCHER.

During the reigns of Henry VII. and Henry VIII., bows were much used in their armies, as well as fire-arms, but it was impossible to maintain the bow and arrow in the presence of the hand-gun and powder. In vain did Henry VIII. pass severe laws against the disuse of the bow; by the end of his reign it had fallen for the most part from the hand of the warrior into that of the sportsman. In vain did Henry forbid the use even of the cross-bow to encourage the practice of archery, and Roger Ascham in his "Toxophilus" endeavour to prolong the date of the bow. By the end of the reign of Elizabeth the endeavour to protract the existence of archery by statute was abandoned, and its long reign, except as a graceful amusement, was over.

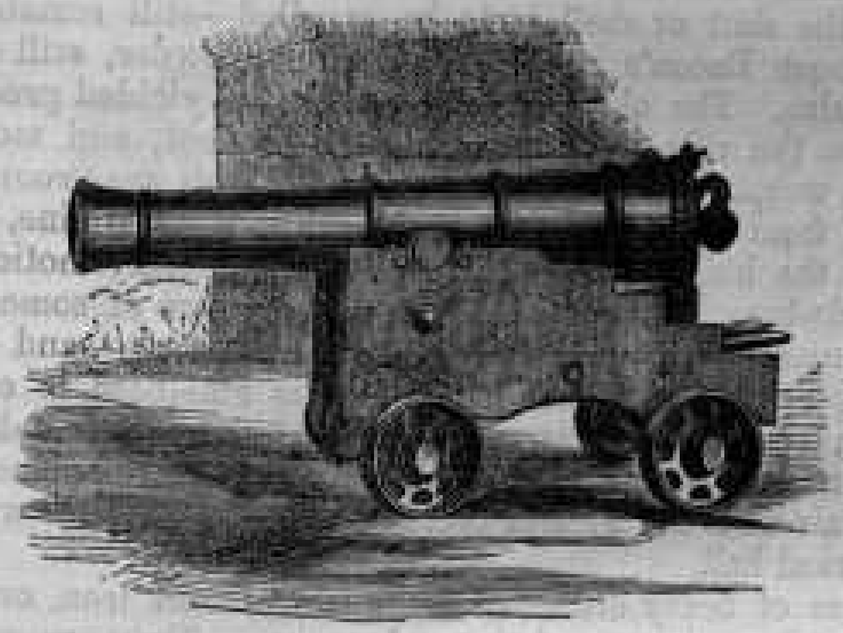
The guns used in early times were called hand-cannons and hand-guns, and were so called to distinguish them from pieces of artillery. The cannon, however, used in ancient times, were of small dimensions; they were, in fact, sometimes so small that the cannonier held his gun in his hand, or supported it on his shoulder, when firing it. The inhabitants of Lucca are generally supposed to have made use of what were called hand-cannons near the beginning of the fifteenth century; they were quickly adopted in other parts of Europe, and they were certainly common in England before the close of the century. In a roll of expenses of the castle of Holy Island, in the



county of Durham, for the year 1446, the following items occur:—

"Bought ij. hand-gunnes deere . iiij*s*.
Item, gone powder . . . iiij*s*."

The material of these hand-guns appears to be brass; and the price, two shillings each, would seem to indicate, notwithstanding the difference in the value of money, that they were of very small dimensions. In discharging one of these guns the soldier held it with one hand on his shoulder, while with the other he applied the match to the



PIECE OF HEAVY ORDNANCE.

touch-hole. For the better convenience of holding it (for after a few discharges the metal would become too hot), the gun was afterwards attached to a wooden stock. The application of the match by the hand was prior to the contrivance of applying the match to the touch-hole by means of a trigger, or by applying to the touch-hole a lighted wisp of straw. In the sixteenth century the gun-lock was rapidly carried through a series of improvements. An attempt was made to dispense with the match, and sparks communicated to the priming by the friction of a furrowed wheel of steel against a piece of sulphate of iron,



UB Braunschweig http://www.digibib.tu-bs.de/?perid=00031385&imgid=00000106.jpg