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CROSSBOW COMPETITION - People of Gubbio hold annual contest with ancient weapon which was once banned as too deadly for use ! - Italy-

Picture:- That most progressive country Italy still maintains a--

--number of ancient customs as a matter of interest.

The tower bell having called the population to witness,--
--the cross bow men load and set their deadly weapons.

At least, they were barred as too deadly in the Middle Ages. Against modern guns, they seem rather, like-

--a slightly dangerous boy's game.

Great credit awaits the man who registers the best hits, as well as a set of carvers or something useful. The glass target doesn't permit cheating.

These two are friends ! They shake hands first in case--

--anything unfortunate happens. A cross bow is sometimes temperamental. A William Tell balances a pumpkin on his head, and his friend does the rest ! General relief--

--is felt that the pumpkin is the only casualty !