

## A REGIMENT OF GENTLEMEN.

**A** LONDON correspondent writes us as follows: Mr. Evelyn Stewart, who is actively engaged in endeavoring to form a regiment of gentlemen, tells me that there is every prospect of the proposal being favorably received by the War Office, with which he is in communication. Every post brings him dozens of letters containing offers of service. Some come from gentlemen who have commissions in the army, but find that they cannot maintain so expensive a position, and, therefore, wish to shoulder the rifle as privates, while other letters are sent by young sons of titled families, and dozens from public school boys, many of whom have been well-known in the play-fields of Harrow and Eton. Gen. Maltby, the popular secretary of the Royal United Service Institution, has generously placed a room at the disposal of the promoters, and as soon as a definite reply from the War Office is obtained a meeting will be called. The Hon. W. W. Dundas, brother of the Marquis of Zetland, is giving Mr. Stewart valuable assistance. Mr. Dundas was some time ago an adjutant of the 5th Dragoon Guards, and has had considerable experience in organization. Two peers have promised to join the committee, as well as three or four well-known army officers. Two officers of the headquarters staff are also assisting in the work. Whatever some service journals may say to the contrary, Mr. Stewart assures me the idea has received high official approval, and only requires the sanction of the War

Office to make the regiment an accomplished fact. He denies that it is intended to draw any social distinction between this and other regiments, and repudiates the idea that it will be a "corps of snobs." Respectable men of education will be admitted, and especially those who, while physically fit for service, have failed to get a commission. The title "A Regiment of Gentlemen" was handy for the moment, and vaguely describes what the promoters have in view, but "Royal Musketeers" would be a better name for the regiment.

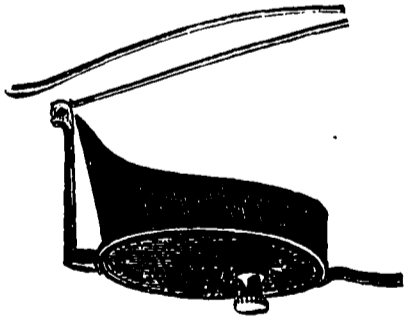
"It was rather a mistake," continued Mr. Stewart, "to name the regiment as one for gentlemen. Several papers attacked the proposal, and accused me of raising unnecessary class jealousy. One evening paper said 'I was a flower of breeding and education, too poor to pay my fees to enter Sandhurst, and too proud to mix with "Tommy."' As a matter of fact I tried for a commission and failed, and to raise a class distinction would immediately condemn the whole thing; and if this regiment ever exists it will have no material superiority to the rest of Her Majesty's forces, unless it be in physique and intellect. The idea is that the corps should have the full regimental strength of 1,200, two-thirds infantry, and the remaining third cavalry, with a maxim gun detachment. Though at first it was suggested that a premium should be paid for outfit, this idea has been abandoned, but, if the corps is formed, the majority of the men might subscribe a fund for a better barrack accommodation than exists for the rank and file at present.

There are hundreds of young fellows, between 18 and 25, who have passed the established character and literary qualification without succeeding in obtaining admission to the Royal Military College, and a thousand or two are without a profession or employment. These, together with those already anxious to join, would make a magnificent fighting body, fit to go anywhere or do anything, and unless such a corps as I have suggested be raised these fine specimens of born soldiers will be lost. They would form the ideal scouting branch of an army corps. There is only one stipulation I should ask for, namely, that yearly a certain number of commissions should be offered to those in the ranks, as the prospect of getting commissions would always tend to smartness and amenability to discipline. Lord Wolseley in his valuable work, 'The Soldier's Pocket-Book,' says: 'Indeed, with a small expedition, I do not see why you should not have as its backbone a small corps exclusively composed of young officers?' Mr. Stewart desires to receive the names of any young gentlemen who would join the regiment, particulars of which can be obtained from him at 10 Seaford Road, West Brighton. Already some 250 men have expressed their desire to join, and of public school boys Westminster and Eton take the lead.—Naval and Military Record.

Lieut. R. K. Scott, R.A., (a Kingston cadet) on completion of the Firemaster's course at Woolwich, has rejoined No. 10 Company, Eastern Division, Royal Artillery, at Dover.

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