

connects the corps on the Wiley with the force near Downton. The two armies now occupy the following positions:—

NORTHERN ARMY.—The line from Winterbourne Stoke to Wilton and Salisbury, the two latter points being held by retaining forces only.

SOUTHERN ARMY.—Codford St. Mary on the extreme left, and thrown forward, Hindon Tufford, Bishopston and Downton.

SEPTEMBER 8TH.—REST.

SEPTEMBER 9TH.—MONDAY.

The Southern force must now make every effort to crush their opponents before further reinforcements are hurried up from the northern counties.

Their objective being London, an advance to the northeast is absolutely necessary. Should the effort of the South be successful, the Northern force will be driven behind the stream running by Winterbourne and Berwick St. James, and retires. The imaginary force in front of Wilton carries the passages near that town; the Downton force also carries the position at Salisbury, the defeated portions retiring and taking up a position extending from Figheldean to Amesbury and Porton.

The entire Southern Army is now concentrated, and being reinforced by detachments, occupies the line from Winterbourne on the extreme left to Middle Woodford on the right. The next struggle is for the possession of the line of the River Avon, and this forms the operations of.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH.

No detail is given of this action, inasmuch as the result determines the campaign.

THE AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

The following letter, under the signature, "A Foreign Officer," has appeared in the *Observer*:

"Not for the first time in the fortnight which has just passed has it been my lot to witness the British troops. Yet never have I seen them before otherwise than on the parade, and it has seemed to me from indications to the experienced apparent that upon the grand parade it was where their chief excellence lay. Nor do I think myself wrong. Of the five active days be assured that for your soldiery the last one—that of the grand parade by Beacon-hill—was, to my opinion, not a little the most creditable. To pass the commander at the point of salute I make myself bold to say that your troops are as good as any in all Europe. Also in physique it was not possible that any fault be found, and further, less still in the goodness of their spirit. Their discipline of self restraint is, let me assure you of it, perfect. Of you Britons the appellation is oftentimes the "bulldog," but the bulldog has an unagreeable temper, whereas your soldiers are most cheerful and jolly, of the bulldog only in their refusal to be oppressed by hardship or fatigue. I saw a cavalry brigade of the Army of the South, the battle being ended of Saturday, march to its camp ground, and prepare for the pause of the night. A good deal of the preparation had been undergone when it was discovered that the contractor of grain contractors appeared to me to have the greatest potency of all in the dispositions—had erred about his orders, and had laid down his stores about two miles away. This being discovered, the brigade had to obey the contractor, and march to the camp ground of that worshipful gentleman's selection, whereupon there was no dissatisfaction expressed further than by the

the reckless swearing which indeed seems of second nature unto your soldiers. They travelled quite merrily, humorous recommending the rapid advent of the Mr. Contractor to a place where the recent elevation in the charge of coal would not perturb him, to their new position. It was on the same night that I was the obliged guest of some gentleman in the infantry of the Army of the South. There was no food for the men, after a hard and wet day of work. To some at length—long after the fall of night—there did arrive salt swine flesh and biscuits, not certainly fare of the most nourishing for men who must have had much hunger. To others arrived neither swine flesh or other flesh, or bread, until in the near of midnight, and of the men most slept foodless altogether. It was not that there was no swearing, but there was no further trouble. It appears to me that the English soldier can make a full meal at swearing. If men had money, they bought what of food they might from the market vendor, until he had no more. They who were too late, or had no money, swore and maintained their hunger like Spartans. No man made his expedition to seize food in the proximate village or farm-houses; but all lay down foodless, with a cheerful stoicism of good discipline which spoke much for their *appel*.

They are good marchers, your infantry soldiers, and your cavalry march and piquet well for regiments the men of which are unwonted, and whose horses are accustomed for over warm barrack stables and too strong feeding. But in the action neither your infantry nor your cavalry wholly please me. I note that perhaps of your horses quite one-third will not go forward alone, and the horse which will not do this is useless for the most important function of cavalry. Nor are your cavalry permitted independent enterprise. Chiefly they manœuvre in masses, and court artillery fire, which, since the guns only throw out smoke in peace evolutions, they appear not to regard. The duty of covering a front affectually, and of holding and keeping the touch of an enemy, they seem not to know. Being on three days chiefly with the Army of the Defence, it was apparent to me that for long the chiefs of it rested quite ignorant of the object of their evening's attack, and this for want of cavalry enterprise. Vedettes on a ridge or peak suffice not. The system of patrols with supports is requisite, in strength sufficient to drive in the screen of the enemy's covering troops, and penetrate so far as to learn the seeming intentions of him. Your infantry, I say with much respect, have not yet learned to free themselves from the chains of close, dense formations, and to work with independent looseness yet with orderly cohesion. The Guards are the most prone of any to cling together in great blocks, upon which actual fire would tell with cruel and crushing force. Your Volunteers dissolve from mass with great spirit and intelligence, but their individual independence then becomes too great and they get what your critics aptly call "out of hand." The best sample of disciplined, loose formation, of which I was a witness, was on the part of the 102nd Fusilier Battalion, skirmishing up to the group of trees upon Box-hill, on the last fighting day of the campaign. A squadron of cavalry suddenly dashed on them, too speedily to let be formed even company squares; but the men, not at all embarrassed, grouped nimbly into little irregular *pelotons*, that formed a perfectly good defence against the cavalry, and spread abroad again swiftly into their original loose order, upon the passing of the danger.

I presume not to advert upon the plain of the campaign, the facts of which I cannot assert to know with adequate fulness. But I reckon that to any one knowing practically somewhat of the art of war, it was apparent how the Northern Army clung too rigidly to the absolute defensive. Sir, Robert Walpole, by my understanding, let slip sluggishly the fairest chance of a great victory that any general might pray for, when on Friday of last week, he was content only to fight against the attack on Horsehill and Codford, instead of swinging round his left across the river of the Wiley, and standing across the stream, smite General-Major Brownrigg upon his exposed right flank; extending his own left so as to come between the Southern Army and its communication lines. And on the last day, how was it that when he found his enemy committed to turn his left flank and crossing the Avon stream, cut his communication with London, he should leave his Third Division stagnant on its own ground, instead of wheeling it round upon the pivot of his Fourth Division, and sweeping into the enemy's line of communication, whithersoever he might have transferred it, and so leaving him absolutely in the air, in the rash position into which he thrust himself.

Your artillery is of material superb, and the speed whereby it come into position and goes into action is a sight to please a soldier. But it is placed and moved without system and greatly too much. The effect of a steady sustained converging fire appears not to be taken into account. A patch of enemy shows himself. A battery that has been firing judiciously is clamoured for by the General to move forward and fire into it. In one minute it disappears into a hollow, having taken but about four shots. The battery is not allowed, to wait for an crush it when it shall emerge again into view, but is hustled away for more isolated peppering, so that, in truth, your batteries are always jumping and hopping about like, as I heard one of your artillery officers say, "parched peas in a drum." And to conclude, with deepest respect, I would venture to allege that your chiefs are all so nervously afraid of hostile criticism from the press, and that your divisional and brigade generals, with perhaps one exception, shun responsibility, and in waiting for orders to justify themselves, lose chances—which must surely be patent to themselves—for making a telling impression. General Stephenson's inertness, in the absence of orders, in the face of his knowledge of Horstford's imminence on his left flank (I refer to Saturday's battle), is a strong illustration of what I refer to.—I have the honour, &c.,

A FOREIGN OFFICER.

According to the field exercise regulations now in force in the Italian Army, the rules of marching are as following:—In the Infantry, ordinary time is 120 paces of 75 centm. (24 inches) each making 98 yards 10 inches in the minute, or, 3 miles 618 yards, English measure, in the hour. Double time is 170 paces of 90 centm. (33 inches) in the minute, making 156 yards nearly in the minute, or 5 miles 56 yards in the hour. In the Bersaglieri (light troops), the rate of march in ordinary time is 140 paces of 86 centm. (31½), equivalent to 122 yards 1½ feet in the minute, of 4 miles 286 yards in the hour. In double time it is 180 paces of 1 metre (39 inches) each, making 195 yards in the minute, or 6 miles 114 yards, English, in the hour. When the Bersaglieri are brigaded with infantry of the line, they are required to conform to the length of pace, and the cadence in use amongst the latter.