

a thoroughly good rider. He himself sets the example by riding every day.

The author then proceeds to comment on the minute attention paid in Prussia to the perfection of the smallest details connected with the organisation of the army, that most important branch of military administration in which we are by no means as yet perfect, and without which the Prussian would never have gained the rapid series of victories which enabled them to overthrow the French in the wonderful manner in which they did. He says,—"It is the continual application of the maxim left by Frederick the Great to his successors" "*Il faut que la Prusse soit toujours en vedette.*" (Prussia must always be on sentry). He then proceeds to censure the bad habit of keeping a number of officers during the best years of their lives confined to an office desk in the bureau of the head-quarter staff occupied with office work, which every intelligent non-commissioned officer would do just as well. We are afraid that a good many of our paper Staff College officers are similarly occupied, especially on foreign stations, where there is little opportunity for them to be employed in other ways.

The Prussians are perfectly astonished at the manner in which the French Staff is organised, and refuse to understand how the simple fact of having passed a good final examination at the military college can make an efficient staff officer and they refuse to believe in a staff officer who can neither ride several miles at full gallop, nor speak at least one foreign language, who has never commanded either a company, a regiment, or a battalion.

Baron Staff concludes his report on the Prussian Staff by urging the importance of raising the condition of the French Staff Corps. He says:—

"And it is without exaggeration, after a searching investigation, after profound reflection, that I declare most emphatically that the constitution of the Prussian Staff would, in any future war, form the greatest element of superiority in favour of the Prussian Army."

He cites the excellence of the Prussian Staff during the campaign in Bohemia, 1866, as verifying the above statement, which have since been confirmed by the war of 1870-71 and his last words in this report are "Beware of the Prussian Staff."

ROYAL COLONIAL INSTITUTE.

(From the London Globe.)

The members of this institute held their dinner to inaugurate the present session of their proceedings at the Pall-mall Restaurant last evening. The Duke of Manchester presided over a very numerous gathering. Amongst those present were—Sir C. Nicholson, Bart., Sir F. Smith (Chief Justice of Tasmania), Sir Chas. Dubouey, Sir R. Torrens, M. P., the Hon. Arthur Kinnaird, M. P., Mr. A. J. O'way, M. P., Mr. E. Greaves, M. P., Sir H. Parkes, Sir Richard Macdonnell, the Hon. Mr. Dutton (Agent General for South Australia), Mr. C. J. Brand (son of the President of the Orange-Free State), Mr. C. W. Eddy, and many others.

The Duke of Manchester, in proposing "The Queen and the Empire," remarked that that one toast conveyed two ideas. On a recent occasion, when there were assembled most of those who were present that night, besides many others, a similar toast was proposed by the Earl of Kimberley, who made some remarks to which he wished to

take exception, not because he belonged to either of the political parties which existed in England, but because the subject to which the noble earl referred was, in his opinion, one of far greater importance than the success or the failure of any political party in the United Kingdom (here, here). Lord Kimberley alluded to the fears which were at one time expressed as to what might be the policy of the present Government, and he regarded the expression of those fears as a party cry from his political opponents in this country. He (the duke) was happy to say that the subject had never been taken up as a political matter by any body of men in England (here, here). It was a matter of far greater importance than that, and viewed in that light Lord Kimberley's remarks were much more satisfactory than they would otherwise have been. His speech was not an answer to his political opponents, but was rather a declaration to the whole empire. Both colonists and their friends at home had had some reason to doubt the present Government, and he should be glad if those doubts were dispelled by what the noble earl had said. There had been some reason to fear that floating in the minds of the present Government there had been an idea of at least submitting, to even if they did not encourage, the disruption of the empire. The unity of the empire was what he was sure all Englishmen would endeavour to maintain under a constitutional Sovereign (cheers).

A report as to the progress which the institute had made during the past year was next read by the Duke of Manchester, who congratulated the members on the great accession there had been to their ranks, and on the progress which the society was making. Forty-six fellows had been elected during the half-year making a total of ninety-seven during the present year. Arrangements had been made for the reading of several papers during the present session and among them would be one on the San Juan award, by Viscount Bury, M. P. The members would still continue to meet in the theatre of the Society of Art, but he hoped from the great increase of their numbers, that they would soon occupy sufficient premises of their own. In conclusion, the duke congratulated the members on the gradual attainment of the objects for which the institute was founded. The chief of those was to express the cordial sympathy which existed between the mother country and her colonies. Words which Lord Kimberley had once uttered had caused great doubts to political parties at home, but the noble earl had since said that no body of men would dare to suggest to England the disruption of the empire (cheers). He ventured to think that even that was not enough. Lord Kimberley seemed to have forgotten that in the House of Commons a motion was made by a supporter of the Government and a member of the Colonial Institute calling for still closer union with the colonies. He had also forgotten the reply which the Government had made on that occasion. The institute had still work to do, and he hoped that work might prosper, and that all parts of the empire might be brought still closer together, now when energetic men had enabled them to—

"Put a girdle round the earth
In forty minutes."

Mr. KINNAIRD said the President had made an edict, that there were to be no more toasts and no speeches, but he thought they would do wrong so to separate, particularly after the cheerful announcement which the chairman had made that the Institute was likely to get larger premises, owing to their

increasing necessities. No doubt the noble duke alluded to Downing street (laughter)—where there was a vacant spot on which his grace had perhaps cast his eye. Looking to that sentiment, and to their prospects, he thought they would fail in their duty if they did not at the inauguration of another session drink to the Council of the Empire under their noble friend the President (cheers).

The Duke of Manchester, in reply, thanked the members for their reception of the toast, but said it alluded to what at present did not exist. He could at present only hope for the advent of that which he should hail with great pleasure. He could only hope that the time might come when he or some one more fit, might be President of a real Council of the Empire. He saw no reason why there should not be such a council, for there were plenty of men capable of forming one.—England would not then stand alone, but would be combined with those enormous territories over which the British Empire extended (cheers). If he could contribute towards effecting such a magnificent result, he should feel that he had done his duty in life by having aided that which would be a matter of pride to England in all future generations (cheers). The company soon afterwards separated.

One of the gallant survivors of the war of 1812-15, has passed away at a good old age. Colonel the Honorable RODERICK MATHESON, Senator of the Dominion of Canada, died at his residence, at Perth, in the county of Lanark, Ontario, on Monday, the 13th inst., in the 50th year of his age.

The deceased was gazetted as Ensign of the Grenadier Light Infantry on the 6th February, 1812. In 1813 he served at the actions at York (near Toronto), Sacket's Harbor, (where he was wounded) Cross roads, Fort George, Lundy's Lane, and Fort Erie.

Having finally settled at Perth, he was called to the Legislative Council of the United Provinces of Canada East and West in 1844, and nominated to the Senate in 1867. He obtained a commission as Lieut.-Colonel of his own regimental division, and finally that of Colonel Commandant of the first military district of Canada West, under the old militia law. He leaves a large family, the most prominent member of which is W. M. MATHESON, Esq., Barrister at Law, and Master in Chancery of this City.

The following beautiful lines we copy from the Perth *Express*, & dedicated on seeing the Funeral of Colonel MATHESON at Perth, January 16, 1873

Hark! the martial music, sounding,
Loud the bugles' thrilling note,
Hark! some German crossed our border?
Hark! I here a random shot.
See the marshalled troops advancing,
Hear the distant roll of drum,
Hark! the war-sound loudly prancing,
Forward now, they come! they come!
See they come with measured paces,
Hear as down beat and movements slow,
Why should soldiers hide their faces?
Why should Britons look so low
Lo! what mean those dark escutcheons?
What those dark and nodding plumes?
This is not the men of warriors,
Hark! I here the muffled drum.
On they come, with slow advances,
Look! behold the soldier's tier,
Often scathed by foemen's lances,
Oft he broke the foeman's spear.
Oft he waved aloft the banner,
Under which he nobly fought,
Oft he braved "The field of danger,"
King nor country ne'er forgot.
See him in his coffin shrouded,
Soon to all the soil to be grave,
Come and see the brow unclouded
View the place where his ashes brave.
Now there's none that can unbraid him,
Toll and troubles now shall cease,
Let him rest where Britons laid him,
Then we know he'll rest in peace.