

THE OLD HOME.

AN ENGLISH POEM.

Yes, still the same, the same old spot;
The years may go, the years may come,
Yet through them all there changeth not
The old familiar home.

The poplars by the old mill stream,
A trifle taller may have grown,
The ivies round the turret green
Perchance more thickly thrown;

Yet still the same green lanes are here
That brought their violet sets in Spring,
And heard through many a golden year
The winsome echoes ring.

Of children in the April morn
Knee deep in yellow cowslip's bloom;
Of lovers' whispers lightly borne
Through sultry twilight gloom.

And out upon the red-brick town,
The quaint old houses stand the same;
The same old sign swings at the crown,
Ablaze in sunset flame.

Yet still 'tis not the same old spot—
The old familiar friends are gone,
I ask of strangers who know them not;
All strangers, every one.

The morning brooks may sing the same;
The white thorns blossom in the May;
But each long loved, remembered name
Has passed in turn away.

THE LONDON TRAIN-BANDS

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.

At a very early period the City of London became famous for the military array at its disposal. It sent a powerful contingent to the army which Alfred led against the Danes mustered (according to Fitzstephen) a force of 20,000 Horse and 60,000 Foot in the time of Stephen, and furnished Sir William Wallworth with that army which barred London against the advance of Wat Tyler. We sometimes find this citizen army referred to as the London Militia. It is not unfrequently supposed that "Militia" applied to some particular service, but before a standing army existed it meant the military force of the nation.

In the reign of Elizabeth, the London Militia seem to have consisted of the London Trainbands and the London Auxiliaries. The prominent position which the former holds in history has induced some persons to believe that Trainbands were peculiar to the metropolis; but the meaning of the term was, as Johnson gives it, "the part of a community trained to martial exercises," and is written by Stow and others of his time, "Trained-bands." As late as 1657, allusion is made in the State Papers to the Train bands of Canterbury, Deal, Dover, Edinburgh, &c. But in London the Trainbands meant a different force from the Auxiliaries. Stow tells us in 1585, when Spain's preparations for the invasion of England become apparent, that "the City having being greatly troubled and charged with continual musters and training of soldiers, certain gallant, active, and forward citizens, having had experience at home and abroad, voluntarily exercised themselves and trained up others, for the ready use of war. So as within two years there were almost 300 merchants, and others of like quality, very skilful and sufficient to train and teach common soldiers the management of their pieces, pikes, and halberds; to march, counter march, and ring; which said merchants, for their own perfecting in military affairs and discipline, met every Thursday in the year, practising all usual points of war; and every man by turns bore order

ly office, from the corporal to the captain. Some had charge of men in the great camp at Tilbury, and were generally called Captains of the Artillery Garden, the place where they exercised." This was in the neighbourhood of Bishopsgate, and had been formerly called Teasel Close from the teasels grown there by the cloth-workers, who were at one time the lessees. It was subsequently let to the crossbow-makers, who assembled there "to shoot for games at the Popinjay, and now, being enclosed with a high brick wall, serveth for an artillery-ground." There the gunners of the Tower practised with their "great brass pieces," and thither, years after it had ceased to be the principal practice ground for artillery Companies, Pepys, "by Captain Deano's invitation, did go to see his new piece tried."

We have relied on Stow's authority for the origin of the Artillery Company, but Mr. Eghmore, the author of "The History of the Artillery Company," published at the beginning of this century, attributes their first charter to Henry VIII., by whom archery was encouraged almost to excess. He mentions a similar body, called the Company of St. George, who received a royal charter, but speedily became extinct. The licence afforded to marksmen, during the 16th and part of the 17th centuries seems almost incredible. Holingshed says that all the gardens which had continued, time out of mind, without Moorgate, were destroyed, and of them was made a plain field for archers to shoot in; and that the shooting extended as far as Islington, Hoxton, and Finsbury. As these villages increased in population the villagers pulled down the butts and marks, and otherwise endeavoured to put an end to the practice of archery in their neighbourhood. The butts were speedily re-erected, and the obstruction removed, but the hostility of the villagers, and Government support of the archers, long continued.

Charles I. by charter gave power to the Artillery Company to punish anyone who should remove any of the butts or marks—a power which was exercised so late as 1747, when a cowkeeper named Pitfield was forced to replace a mark, on which some artillerymen subsequently carved, "Pitfield's repentance."

After the Armada had been dispersed, the Artillery Company seems to have died out, but in 1610 "this brave exercise was renewed," through the exertions of a few citizens of London. Almost immediately the enthusiasm "for artillery," as it was then called, and for becoming efficient for the defence of the State, became as fervent as we have seen it become in our day. The Princes Henry and Charles listed into the Artillery Company; the latter, poor fellow, little knowing what effect the drill in the artillery garden would have upon his fortunes. Clarendon records how Rupert's fiery charges were met by the "London trained bands and Auxiliary Regiments (of whose inexperience of danger of any kind beyond the easy practise of their postures in the Artillery Garden, men had till then too cheap an estimation) for they stood as a bulwark and rampire to defend the rest." Many persons joined the Company, especially the principal citizens of London. Boys from the City Schools were sent to pick up their drill at the Artillery Garden, and thither "many country gentlemen of all shires resorted, and diligently observed their exercise of arms, which they saw was excellent, and being returned, they practised and used them unto their trained bands in their own countries."

In 1622, "for their ease and conveniency" the Company erected a strong and "well-furnished armory, in which were arms of several sorts, and of such extraordinary beauty as were hardly to be matched elsewhere." Towards the expense of this, the Chamber of London contributed £316 13s. 4d. Before this time it had become apparent to the more zealous members that their numbers which was rapidly approaching 6,000, were becoming too large for the Teasel Close, and thereupon they fixed on a spot near Moorfields, "a noysome and offensive place"—"loathsome both to sight and smell"—which was brought into shape by the exertions of several citizens, the most active of which were Sir Lenard Holliday and Mr. Nicholas Leate (the latter a very grave, wise, and well affected citizen) against whom "the people spake very bitterly and rudely saying in derision, it was a holiday work, all which they patiently endured." These gentlemen succeeded in reducing two other fields into "comely shape and pleasant manner," planting trees, building walls, &c. The expense was borne by the City of London. At Moorfields now the musters frequently took place, but the old garden was not wholly abandoned, for there were the orderly room and armoury.

In 1657 they performed their exercises at Merchant Taylor's Hall before Sir Maurice Abot, the Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, and others, so much to their satisfaction that they presented the present Artillery Garden as a field for their practise (vide Blackwell); and in 1640, on the request of several officers, the Common Council granted a lease to the "Society of hither Bunhill fields" for the exercise of themselves and the train bands for 139 years at 6s. 8d., which lease was renewed in 1727 for 63 years. In 1657 the Company quitted the old ground for good, and their armoury was sold by the Court of Assistance to Mr. Wolleston, a Master Gunner. At the Restoration (1666) the City Militia consisted of 1800 Foot, and 600 Horse, composed of six regiments of trained bands, six of Auxiliaries, and one of Horse. What the relation was between the Auxiliaries, the trained bands and the Artillery Company it is difficult now to discover. The term "Auxiliaries" is used by old writers to describe the City Militia, but in Elizabeth's reign that of "Trained Bands" becomes common. The probability seems to be that the Force, possessing rights and privileges peculiar to the City and its liberties, when taught its military duties, was called the "Train bands," while those who lived without the jurisdiction of London assumed the name of "Auxiliaries" and were absorbed by the Artillery Companies, who, in the first instance were merely staff instructors. That the Train bands were a separate body appears by an Ordinance of 1713, by which his Majesty ordered them to become members of the Artillery Company, and "exercise with them at all convenient times, to qualify themselves the better for the respective stations." How they happened to be in existence at that date it is not easy to see, for by the 13 and 14 Car. II. intitled "An act for ordering the Forces in the several Counties of this kingdom," it was provided "that the trained bands and Forces now actually raised, and in being, shall so continue in each respective city and county of England and Wales until the five-and-twentieth day of March, 1663, and no longer unless an establishment according to this act be sooner made; and the 15 Car. II. provides that the constables or tithing men, &c., of any parish or place should levy all arrears and proportions of