

MILITARY BALLADS.

VII.

THE LADS IN RED.

THE Sergeant met me on the road ;
Said he, "My lad," to me,
"The war's begun ; and now's the time
For lads of six-foot three !
A smarter regiment you'll not find,
Tho' you may travel far,
Or truer comrades round the world,
In friendship, love, or war.

Here they come,
Fife and drum !
Gaily led,
The lads in red—
Not one eye
Will be dry

When the regiment marches by !
Your fortune's made if you will come
With the lads in red, with the fife and drum.

"We've only just come from Japan ;—
It's yonder o'er the sea—
The language is not quite the same
As spoke by you and me.
But soldiers are the boys to learn ;
And when on shore we ran,
We heard each little maiden whisper
Softly to her fan—

'Here they come,
Fife and drum !
Gaily led,
The lads in red—

All our hearts have gone astray
Since these lads have come this way !
It's worth a score of years to come
To have seen Japan with the fife and drum."

I took the Sergeant by the hand,
I served for thirty year—
Till now, a tottering veteran, I
On one leg wander here.
But when the music passes by
I throw my crutch aside,
And murmur in the Sergeant's ear
With all the old glad pride—

"Here they come,
Fife and drum !
Gaily led,
The lads in red.
Now I say,
Old and grey,

If this life had but one day—
I'd give it twenty times to come
To be back once more with the Fife and Drum !"

J. L. MOLLOY.

—Temple Bar.

British News.

The 18th Middlesex is not the only regiment that has organized an inter-company marching competition. A contest on much the same lines takes place in connection with the 2nd V.B. West Riding Regiment at Huddersfield. As we gave our readers last week the details of the arrangements made for the march of the Paddington regiment, we need not repeat them. Regarding the Huddersfield battalion, it is open to company teams of eight men and an officer or non-commissioned officer. Any number of teams may compete from any company.

Three prizes are offered ; one each of £6, £4 and £2 ; if less than seven teams compete only two prizes will be given. The teams will be despatched in pairs between mid-day and 3 p.m., and march by separate routes on the circular tour principle back to the starting place. Undress uniform to be worn, with great coat rolled and carried over the left shoulder, two pouches, leggings, rifle and bayonet, water-bottle and haversack. As no mention is made either of valise or ammunition, it may be presumed that the Huddersfield men will have much less to carry in the way of impedimenta than their metropolitan brethren, whose total burden per man will be about 37 pounds.—*Volunteer Record*.

The goat, a fine animal of its kind, presented a few weeks ago to the 2nd Royal Welsh Fusiliers by Her Majesty the Queen, to take the place of the goat that was accidentally killed in Wales while the battalion was *en route* to Aldershot through the Principality about five weeks since, has (according to the *Daily News*) shown highly insubordinate conduct. At its first parade, it refused to accompany the band, butted the drum-major, and charged the "goat-major" so effectually as to lay that official sprawling on the parade ground. Seeing the mutinous conduct of "Billy," an officer ordered his goatship to be placed in solitary confinement in the stables until he becomes more amenable to military discipline.

The death has been reported from Dublin of General James Maurice Primrose, C.S.I., who had an important share in the Afghan War of 1879-80, and commanded the Candahar garrison during its investment by Ayoob Khan until relieved on August 31, 1880. The gallant officer joined the army in 1837, became lieutenant-general in 1880, was placed on the retired list with the honorary rank of general in 1882, and died at Dublin on November 25, aged 73. His first war service was against the Kaffirs in 1851-53, including the battle of Berea. During the Indian Mutiny he was at the surrender of Kirwee, the action of Sahow, and the attack on the heights of Gopulpore, and in Afghanistan he first commanded the first division of the Candahar field force in the campaign of 1879, and then the whole of that force in 1880, including the engagement near Ghirishk. After the relief of Candahar he took part in the battle of September 1.

The introduction of the search light, without which no modern war ship or torpedo boat would be considered complete, dates from 1876, and the first vessel in the navy fitted with a search light apparatus was the "Minotaur." The dynamo employed was one of the alternating-current type with thirty-two magnets, and it was driven at about 400 revolutions by a belt from an auxiliary pumping engine. The projector was of a primitive type, and pedestals were fixed in three different places, from any of which the same projector could be used. It was fitted with a parabolic reflector and with dioptric and diverging lenses. A diaphragm was also provided for enabling flashing signals to be made. The "Temeraire" in the same year was next fitted in a similar manner, with the exception that a Mangin projector was introduced, fitted with Wilde's lamp, lens, etc. In the next year, 1877, the "Dreadnaught," "Neptune," and several other vessels were fitted with the same class of apparatus.—*Electrical World*.

Captain Pinney, of the Royal Fusiliers, was bitten in the face by a dog the other day at Quetta, while giving it medicine. The dog afterwards proved to be mad, and Captain Pinney is now on his way to Paris for treatment at the Pasteur Institute.