

seen approaching, while in the immediate front the skirmishers pushed so hard that it was at times almost a question whether there would not be a sort of Sedan. On the north side of the knoll there was a momentary pause, while the artillery were at work; but presently the limber-up was sounded, and away went the guns tearing along at the top of their speed. The Grenadiers, the Rifles, and the 4th were now extending in a line facing the ridge towards Sandhurst, from whence the enemy were seen advancing. Perhaps they had forgotten that their original attack came from their left—Pirbright—which was now entirely exposed; what is certain, that all their attention and all their fire was directed to the enemy in front (which had been changed and was now parallel with the ridge), when their former enemies—those of the turnip-field—came upon them by stealth, creeping through the furze and just showing themselves above the hill until there were enough of them. Then advanced the Colonel with a shout of "at them boys, take them in flank!" and the black line advanced at lightning speed, while the bewildered 4th stared round, and exclaimed, "Where the— did they come from; which way are we to turn?" On they came, and had the movement not been counteracted in another minute the whole regiment must have been taken prisoners; as it was half of them had to run for dear life to change front towards the new enemy, and thus they had to withdraw running backwards through the uneven ground. From all sides the invading force now came in upon the defenders, every hedge and roadside was lined with men who kept up a sharp fire while the others retreated, and at half-past eleven the magnificent position of the Chobham Ridges was left in possession of the enemy.

The prettiest sight, however, was yet to come. It was thought at one time that a second stand would be made on the heights known as West End, Chobham, for the cavalry brigade was drawn up here, the 1st Rifles lined the slope, and the A Battery drew up. The enemy had not pursued, and was not therefore in sight; but at about half-past twelve there was a flash of cannon on the opposite ridges, and the cavalry received orders to withdraw. Massed as they were on that height, one shell would have done the work of ten. They had scarcely withdrawn by two different roads, when there was a cloud of dust in the plain, and the bright pennions of the Lancers were seen fluttering in the wind. At this sight the 1st Horse Guards were ordered to advance, but they were no match in speed for the Lancers. Half the regiment was able to meet them at the foot of the hill, and arriving at a gallop drew up within twenty yards of each other; the 9th Lancers massed together, and supported at the rear by the 2nd Guards. Against this the defenders made but a poor show, and the umpires rode down and ordered the 1st, who had by this time received support from the Blues, to retire. And well they might; for as they retired by sections the hill became crowded with the 12th Lancers, flanked by a battery of Horse Artillery, and the most fastidious judge could not deny that the foe had executed his movements to perfection, and fairly won the day.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH.

To-day the crowning battle of the campaign took place. According to the "general sketch" of the manoeuvres for yesterday (Monday), the 2nd and 3rd Divisions had for their object to reach the valley of the Thames, and the area of operations was re-

stricted on the north by the London and Southampton road, and to the east by the Brookwood Station, London and South-Western Railway. On Monday evening the positions of the contending forces were as follows:—Sir Hope Grant, after fighting in retreat the whole morning, had so impressed the enemy that he had been allowed during the afternoon to fall back without further molestation on Chobham Common, where he had commenced the formation of an entrenched camp. Batteries and redoubts had been thrown up on the most advantageous spots, and these had been further strengthened by shelter trenches, either connecting or running in front of the more important works. Emplacement for guns had been also made, and in front of the right a few rifle-pits had been excavated; but the batteries and redoubts were of weak profile, and most of them were unfinished. Additional lines of parapet and shelter trenches had been traced out, but time had been wanting to carry out the scheme in its entirety. Sir Hope Grant, aware that in this condition the fortification he had commenced could offer but a slight resistance to a determined enemy, sent out a working party of 1200 men very early this morning, and the Sappers were at work up to the very moment when the enemy came in sight. The right wing of the invaders, under Sir Charles Staveley, encamped last night on Hog Thorn Moor and the moorland to its left, while General Carey's camp was established in Bishmoor bottom, at the back of the Staff College. At about 7.45 yesterday morning both divisions marched towards Chobham Common, leaving their camps standing. Carey's line of march was by the Bagshot Park, on to the Sunningdale road, while Staveley marched to Windlesham. On approaching the position occupied by Grant between nine and ten yesterday morning, it was found that he had pushed forward his first line of skirmishers to within a short distance of the wood which separates the moor from Windlesham, supporting it with detachments of infantry of from one to three companies, who were concealed by the numerous hills from the view of the enemy. One battery occupied Fox Hill, and a second another hill overlooking the Sunningdale road. In rear near, and in the entrenched camp, were drawn up the rest of the army. The force would have been, but for the entrenchments, rather too weak to occupy the position properly. In order to be prepared for every eventuality, Sir Hope Grant had struck his camp early in the morning, and sent off all his baggage some miles on the Staines road. Pickets of infantry and cavalry watched the approaches by the Sunningdale Station, while the Blues and 3rd Dragoon Guards patrolled the Windlesham road on the other flank. About a quarter to ten the two regiments of Life Guards advanced to the right front, but no other movement indicated that the enemy were at hand. In deed, from the fact that Staveley's tents could be seen still standing, some inferred that some hours of day were to be anticipated. As we have already said, however, Staveley and Carey had both left their camps standing. Whether they did so with a view to deceive Grant or not, the ruse was not without its effect on the mass of Grant's troops. They were rudely awakened from their delusion, for a few minutes before ten a battery concealed in the fir wood to the west of the common opened fire, and a sputter of musketry quickly followed. The defenders were not slow to reply, and soon the artillery and skirmishers on both sides began to carry on a brisk combat. The defenders had the advantage of being sheltered by

a long turf bank, which ran half way across their front, while the enemy's skirmishers when they pushed out from the wood into the open were but partially covered by the swell of the ground. The light remained therefore in this quarter stationary for some little time. A little after ten clouds of dust were seen to arise caused by long lines of troops approaching the railway station. In a few minutes skirmishers began to advance against Grant's right flank, compelling him to execute a partial change of front to meet the threatened danger. Stewing round the guns on the top of the hill in rear of his hill in rear of his right, and extending fresh skirmishers, he opposed a vigorous resistance, but the enemy were not to be denied, and kept continually extending his line beyond the defenders right, which now ran almost perpendicularly to the original front. The skirmishers at the western end of the moor, emboldened by the appearance of their comrades, became bolder, and gradually forced back the line in that quarter. Carey had a short time previously sent troops along the outer skirt of the wood, with a view of turning Grant's left, strongly posted on a high plateau, Staveley's cavalry had also made a reconnaissance along the Windlesham road, and though a volley from two companies of the Guards had sent them flying back, still it was evident that Grant's advanced position was no longer tenable. The whole line, therefore, began to fall back on the entrenchments. The main pressure of the attack being on the right, but the defenders' line in retreating was oblique to the original front. Indeed, but for the fear of being compromised by the defeat of the right, there was no reason why the left should abandon their ground. There were, however, strong reasons for believing that the right would be crushed, and at one time the advanced left was in some danger. The guns on the right had been compelled to retire, and though the battery on Fox Hill and the artillery in the works fired steadily, the enemy owing to the nature of the ground, suffered comparatively little. It may here be remarked that the whole of the first line was composed of the three battalions of Guards, two batteries of artillery, the 1st Battalion Rifle Brigade, and the 1st and 2nd Life Guards. To check the progress of the enemy on his right Grant now brought up the two regiments of Life Guards and a troop of Horse Artillery to a field marked on the map, "Old Entrenchment," the banks of which were lined on the outside by a strong body of skirmishers from the Guards. Entering the field by two gaps, the Life Guards and artillery drew up in rear of a brow. The artillery fired very little, nor had the Life Guards an opportunity of effecting much. The enemy drew up several battalions, covered by infantry skirmishers, but the 10th Hussars, who happened to be on that part of the field of battle, seeing their old adversaries the Life Guards in front, could not resist the temptation of treating them to a show of bravado. About a score of Baker's dashing horsemen pricked gaily forward in extended order, and passing along the front of the bank lined by the Guards' skirmishers, who were only 400 yards distant from the outermost horsemen, amused themselves by firing their carbines at the Guards. They might just as well have let off soda water bottles at them, and every hussar would inevitably have fallen to their opponents' rifles. Enraged at the temerity of these military mosquitoes, Marshall sent two squadrons over the brow at them, but calmly turning their horses' heads, they galloped leisurely back to their supports ere the horses of the Life Guards had got into their stride. One