

## THE AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

## THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS.

(from the Broad Arrow, August 31.)

(Continued from Page 533.)

MONDAY, AUG. 20th.

*Northern Army.*—Except church parade, we have no record for yesterday. This morning, however, the war is said to have really commenced, one half of the northern army having begun its march on its way southwards to meet the enemy. Nothing could have been more discouraging to troops than the weather from about one o'clock a. m.; and at three and up to half past four the rain fell in torrents, so that the tents were as saturated as if they had been dragged through a river before the time came for striking them. Six o'clock was the hour fixed upon for the march yesterday by Lord Mark Kerr, but subsequently half past five was adopted, and this morning the *revue* sounded at a quarter past four. The Transport Branch of the Army Service Corps had been astir since three, and activity became general throughout the scattered encampment of the 4th Division by half past four, when the rain ceased for a short time. But the previous three hours had rendered the tents 28 per. cent heavier, than they are when dry, and so much was added to the load which the transport wagons had to carry. At five the rain descended in a heavier and much more determined looking downpour, and no one imagined that the division would have to set out in such weather when the distance to Hazely Heath was a short twelve miles and there was the whole day to do it in. Even old soldiers thought it impossible that last night's order was to be adhered to. They regarded it as certain that the march would be postponed till the afternoon, if not till to-morrow, the day originally fixed for both divisions to set out for the south. Here it may be desirable to state why the original plan of marching the two divisions from Aldershot on the same day and at the same hour was departed from. As first formed up at Aldershot, the 4th Division was on the right, but by a change of formation it became the left of the two divisions. When this change had been accomplished it became apparent that in order to get into their respective position on the line of march, the two divisions would have to cross each other, an operation which would retard the onward march by two or three hours. In order to avoid this, the order was issued for Lord Mark Kerr's Division to leave Aldershot a day in advance of that of Sir C. Staveley, but this arrangement might have been adhered to and still the men of 4th Division might have been saved from such a thorough drenching as they got in the early hours of this morning. To their credit be it said, they struck their tents and came soaking to the regimental parades in thorough good humor. The bands played lively airs as the rain rattled like hailstones on the drums. General Walpole, commanding the whole of the northern army, was at the divisional headquarters to see the march commence. It was a sight to see 7,000 men, long trains of wagons and many hundreds of horses setting out in such thorough discomfort. The first of the troops got fairly off soon after half past five, and by a few minutes past six they were all out of camp on their way to Cove Village and Cove Common. The right column under the command of Col. Stevenson, C. B., moved along by Cove Village, Minley Manor and Hartford Bridge flats to Hazely Heath.

Its advanced guard was one troop of cavalry one half battalion of infantry, and the E Battery of the Royal Artillery. The remainder of the infantry of the 3rd Brigade and the Royal Engineers followed. The left column, under the command of Major General Maxwell, C. B., marched across the Farnborough road and Cove Common to Elmora Bridge, then by the south of the canal to Pontail Bridge, and by the bank of the canal for about a mile to a point south of Reading Road Bridge, and thence by the north western road over the South Western Railway. The formation of this column was the same as that of the right column. The cavalry Brigade and a battery of the Royal Horse Artillery under the command of Major General Shute, C. B. moved by Crookham, Winchfield, Hurst, and Phenex Green. The baggage wagons followed the respective columns to which they belonged.

Lord Mark Kerr headed the Division as it was getting out of Aldershot, but at a point on the road he halted, and inspected his two columns as they marched past. His Lordship was attended by these members of his staff—Col. E. Newdegate, assistant adjutant general; Lieut. Col. H. Blundell, assistant quartermaster general; Major Parsons, deputy assistant quartermaster general; Capt. Hume, Capt. England, and Captain Salis-Schwabe, aides de camp.

For the first hour after the 4th Division began its march it began to rain "cats and dogs," and any one who knows what Cove Common is will pity the troops who had to march over it in such weather. Before they reached the better sheltered and more rural country nearer Hazely Heath the rain ceased and by the time they had reached the camping ground, the infantry had walked themselves dry. The cavalry reached the Heath at twenty five minutes to nine, and the first of the infantry about ten minutes later. The men got up the tents, wet though the canvas was, with creditable rapidity, and the camp was completed by about eleven o'clock. The formation is this—headquarters are pitched near the centre of the heath in front of Parkis Farm. At some distance in front of the headquarters tents is Maxwell's brigade; to his left, Col. Pakenham's brigade. To Maxwell's right are the hospitals the Control and the artillery, and on the extreme left the cavalry. There are no outposts, because we are as yet too far from the enemy to render such a precaution necessary. All the divisions reached the camping ground with one exception. When just near the Heath, Col. Newdegate, Lord Mark Kerr's assistant adjutant general, received a bad kick on the leg from the horse of a Control officer. He was conveyed to the village of Hartley Row, close by, but in an hour or two felt able to come in a carriage to his tent. After the arrival of the division, the soldier servant of Col. Fiennes, of the 9th Lancers, met with an accident while going to water a horse. The animal got entangled in a rope and fell over, breaking his own back, and the servant's leg.

*Southern Army.*—The southern army played a little war game by themselves. Sir A. Horsford's cavalry brigade at Bottle Bush Down made a reconnaissance in force, accompanied by a battery of Royal Horse Artillery, along the Salisbury road, in the direction of Blandford. Sir A. Horsford on this occasion represented the defending force. On reaching a point which commands a view of one end of the camp on the Blandford Race Dawn, they must, one would think have been close to the ground patrolled by the enemy's outposts. Here for the first time, a gun was fired sullenly, as if in warning, followed by other discharges at con-

siderable intervals. The cavalry halted at once, in beautiful formation; the 7th Hussars and 12th Lancers on the right, supported by the six guns of the Horse Artillery, while the 10th Hussars, forming the left of the line, had on their right a detachment of Lancers to act as a connecting link. The artillery promptly replied to the challenge, and the whole line held their ground manfully in the face of what became an artillery duel, but unfortunately, Col. Baker's Hussars and Lancers were not supported by infantry at that moment, or for a long time afterwards, and so could not venture on any further advance. Indeed, had the enemy known how adventurous the cavalry were in this respect, there would have been a splendid opening for General Brownrigg's infantry. For he probably did not know and from other causes was not in a position to act with effect. General Pym Harding's brigade, in marching across Launceston Heath, was deceived, it is said by the direction in which the smoke was blowing into taking the guns of a hostile for those of a friendly battery, and having suffered heavy loss in consequence, was compelled to retire. A similar fate befell the Bays, also forming part of General Brownrigg's army; but in justice to them, it must be explained that they had to work across on an open common commanded by a lofty knoll, on which artillery were posted, while Sir A. Horsford's force had the advantage of numerous fields and hedgerows, behind which they sheltered in turn till they were prepared to rush across to the next. But this knoll itself, though invaluable as a position, was a costly one to hold; and Col. Baker had frequently to bring up reliefs. The main body of Sir A. Horsford's infantry meanwhile had made a long detour to the left, feeling for the enemy in that quarter, and skirmishing almost too carefully, lost valuable time without corresponding results, for the ground over which they marched had been explored already by the videttes of the light cavalry and their own artillery was far in advance. Companies of the 16th, 17th, and 50th Regiments of the South Down Militia, as they came up, were either told off to act as supports to the cavalry or pushed forward, a field at a time nearer to the enemy. At last, the puffs of smoke from hedges near at hand showed that these were tenanted by skirmishers of the invading army; but in accordance with the fighting throughout the day they did not betray their presence till the very last moment. Even the cavalry lay so close in ranks, four deep, beside the hedgerows, one rank of horses being almost in the ditch, and the other three ranks pressed tightly together that their position was rather conjectured than ascertained. About half past one the firing ceased, and the umpires drew together to compare notes and express their opinion. As far as the advantages of the fighting went these seemed to be principally on Sir A. Horsford's side; he had gained ground and lost none. But as he had failed to make the enemy disclose his actual force, the object with which the expedition was undertaken was held to have failed. General Brownrigg, on the other hand, knowing himself to be in an enemy's country, made no effort at all to disturb Sir A. Horsford's position.

The Umpire's staff to day were Col. Herbert, Col. Nicholson, R. E., Lieut. Col. Andrews, R. A., Captain Home, Deputy Assistant Quartermaster General; Captain Rees, 7th Dragoon Guards; Col. Sir Garnet Wolseley, C. B., Col. Belfield, R. A., Capt. Purso 42nd Highlanders; Major Harrison, R. A., and Capt. Ritter, R. A.