

THE OLD RED FLAG OF ENGLAND.

Eliza Cook has addressed the "United Service" in the following Dublin-like strain, which throws Tennyson's "Ridgeway" into the shade.

Old England! thy name shall yet warrant thy fame,
If the brows of thy foemen shall scowl;
Let the lion be stirred by too daring a word:
And beware of his echoing growl.
We have still the same breed of the men and the steed.
That bore nobly our Waterloo wreath,
We have more of the blood that formed Inker-
man's flood
When it poured in the whirlpool of death;
And the foe—man shall find, neither coward nor slave,
'Neath the Red Cross of England—the flag of the brave.

We have jackets of blue, still as dauntless and true,
As the tars that our Nelson led on:
Give them room on the main, and they'll shew you again
How the Nile and Trafalgar were won,
Let a ball show its teeth, let a blade leave its sheath,
To defy the proud strength of its might,
We have iron mouthed guns, we have steel hearted sons.
That will prove how we Britons can fight,
Our ships and our sailors are kings of the wave
'Neath the Red Cross of England—the flag of the brave.

Though a tear might arise in our mourner's bright eyes,
And a sob choke the tearful "Good-bye,"
Yet these women would send, lover, brother, or friend,
To the war field to conquer or to die,
Let the challenge be flung from the braggarts bold tongue,
And that challenge will be fiercely met,
And our banner unfurled shall proclaim to the world,
That "there's life in the old dog yet,"
Hurrah! for our men on the land or wave,
'Neath the Red Cross of England—the flag of the brave.

ELIZA COOK.

REPORT OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE BRITISH ARMY ON THE AUTUMN MANOEUVRES.

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Thus terminated the actual movements of the troops, and on Friday 22nd, the entire force was assembled in the Long Valley at Aldershot, for the general inspection and march past. With this object I formed the infantry in double column of battalion on their centre in first line, the artillery and the columns being in the second line, the Engineer Train with pontoon equipment and the train of the Army Service Corps formed the third line. The troops then marched past me; Artillery by batteries and cavalry by squadrons, at a walk and a trot; infantry in grand divisions. I have every reason to think that the appearance of the troops of all arms was most creditable to them, and produced a favourable impression on the distinguished foreign officers, whom we all were much gratified to welcome as our guests; the feeling which I heard them express being, that troops must have been well looked after by their officers who could appear to such advantage after the long marches and hard work to which they have been exposed for so many successive days. In concluding this portion of my report, I cannot too strongly express my sense of the zeal and attention evinced by the General officers commanding divisions and brigades; as well as the general staff and the entire body of commanding and regimental officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, during the whole of their operations, including those belonging to the Yeomanry, Militia, and Volunteers. Where all endeavored to do their best, it would be invidious, and indeed most undesirable, to bring forward either the names of individuals or to specify corps, though I feel bound to express my thanks

to Lieutenant-General Sir Hope Grant, upon whom, and his immediate staff, not only a very heavy responsibility fell in making all the preliminary arrangements for the concentration, but who also took so prominent a share in the operations that took place during the period of manoeuvres. I am also satisfied that I should not do justice to the feelings of the entire corps d'armée, were I not to notice the pleasure that all experienced in seeing His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales associated with the force in actual command of a brigade of cavalry, the duties of which command he conducted with an interest and vigour (taking part in all ordinary duties of camp life) which it was truly gratifying to observe.

Having now given a short detailed account of the manoeuvres of the forces, I think it will be well to express my opinion on the general points which more immediately came under my observation; and here I would begin by referring in the first place to the Staff.

I have every reason to be satisfied with its general zeal and efficiency. The officers of all departments worked hard and well. The general officers evinced much capacity, and showed every desire to avail themselves of the advantages thrown into their way, by extending the sphere of the knowledge they already possessed; and they were well seconded by those who worked under them. The great drawback was decidedly that the officers were new to one another, and new to the troops with whom they were for the most part for the first time associated; and in this respect no doubt had greater difficulties to contend with than will be found to be the case in most continental armies, into which the combination of troops into corps, divisions, and brigades is a permanent organization, which naturally must have great advantages. Any arrangements which could bring about a similar system for our army would be doubtless of great value; but the dispersion of our troops in small bodies throughout the United Kingdom renders any such organization difficult, and to some extent almost impossible.

The umpire staff evinced much zeal and attention. The peculiar functions they are called upon to perform are at times somewhat invidious, and require both delicacy and tact in their performance; but when rightly understood, will, I am convinced, be fully appreciated on future occasions, and were conducted during the present manoeuvres in a manner highly to the credit of those distinguished officers who were called upon to undertake these delicate duties.

The next point I would wish to allude to is the actual state of the several branches of the Service.

The Royal Artillery batteries, both horse and field, showed to great advantage; admirably horsed and most ably handled by their respective field and battery officers, they generally took up their ground well, moved with rapidity and precision, and covered the movements of the troops in a highly satisfactory manner. A marked improvement in the manoeuvres took place after I had directed an order to be given that the officers of Artillery were to take up their own positions in accordance with the general course of the movements, without adhering too formally to actual alignment or contact with the brigades of cavalry and infantry to which they were attached. The object of this order seemed to be well understood and fully appreciated by batteries generally, and a marked improvement in the taking up of ground was the result. The condition of the horses under heavy work was admirable, clearly proving that the officers and men

were attentive to this essential part of their duty, and the driving was as I could wish to see it; the result being that, in spite of the roughest ground, very few, and these generally but slight, accidents took place, while the guns followed the troops over every obstacle that presented itself.

The cavalry in like manner evinced the greatest facility of movement, over the most difficult and rutty ground; and this, moreover, without accident. The whole, of the cavalry are well mounted; the riding of the men is highly creditable, the condition of the horses perfect. Sore backs were extremely rare amongst the whole mounted portion of the force, which I ascribe to the use of the numnahs now generally introduced into the Service with such great advantage. The work done was severe, and yet there was no apparent loss of flesh. In these remarks I include the whole cavalry—Household Troops as well as those of the Line—and I am gratified on being able to report that the Household Cavalry, though mounted on heavier horses than the Line, performed all the duties, outpost duties included, with the same facility as the other portions of the cavalry force. The picketing of horses has always been a great difficulty, and much difference of opinion exists as to the best mode to adopt with a view to security. The general idea had been, that the picketing by the fore foot was the safest plan, but the result was unfavourable, and in several corps of cavalry most serious and most lamentable accidents occurred in the first days of concentration: I consider no sort of blame attached to either officers, non-commissioned officers, or men, in these unfortunate occurrences, for their attention to their stable or line duties was most marked, and horses fresh from their stables are very apt, till accustomed to the change, to be easily alarmed from the slightest cause. My opinion has always been that the best mode of picketing is by long rope-lines along the ground to which horses should be attached from their heads, with heel-ropes for a time at least to keep them in their places. The squadron carts can always carry these ropes, and the heel-ropes can be used for many secondary purposes. When detached, a dragoon has always the means of fastening his horse by his headrope to a tree, a post or any other firm object which comes in his way. The drill of individual regiments and squadrons is good, but outpost duties want more practice, and require an amount of study, which is now, I hope thoroughly appreciated, as will, I am satisfied, be clearly demonstrated in the future. I look upon the cavalry as the eyes and ears of an army and it is the knowledge of country, the watching the movements of an enemy, the gaining of information, and its rapid transmission to superior authority, which constitute the features of its utility and its strength. Constant practice alone in such duties can secure the attainment of these objects, and, once understood, they will be thoroughly appreciated and fully developed. The movement of cavalry in large masses, except to cover the front of an army, has, with the modern arms of precision, become a most difficult operation, and should seldom be resorted to, excepting in supreme efforts, when sacrifices must be made for the general good. Consequently, the exposure of cavalry to the direct fire of either artillery or infantry is to be deprecated, and every sort of shelter should at all times be sought, and could almost invariably be attained, as it seldom occurs that the undisturbed ground does not admit of advantage being taken of it. In this respect our cavalry will, I hope, benefit much by the experience it