

ships of this adventure were fatal to the health of most of the party. Soon after this feat, Moody, who had served quite a year as a volunteer without pay, and nearly three years as an ensign, was promoted to a lieutenantancy.

In a month or two, Do Lancy complained of the want of intelligence, and the now lieutenant, with four men, accordingly left camp to seize another "Rebel Mail." On the second night they met a party of Whigs who enclosed them on three sides, and who had so well executed a plan of ambush as to leave no hope of escape, except leaping from a high cliff or rocks. To surrender or perish was the only alternative. Moody chose the latter; and bidding his men to follow, sprang over the precipice. Strangely enough no one was hurt. But he soon saw another band of Whigs crossing a swamp; and satisfied that his enemies acted upon information sent from the British lines, he resolved to retreat. Eluding his pursuers, he reached the Hudson River, and thought his perils over. When within four miles of the city, seventy Whigs emerged from a house a hundred yards distant, and marched directly towards him. His guide, who insisted that they were Loyalists, went to meet them, and was greeted with a shot. The main body made for Moody, who, without any means of escape, scrambled up a steep hill; but, long before he reached the summit, his foes were in full chase, and when only one hundred and fifty yards off "gave him one general discharge." "The bullets flew like a storm of hail all round him; his clothes were shot through in several places; one ball went through his hat and another grazed his arm." He turned withal, slackening his pace, aimed at one who pursued, and killed him on the spot. Though the firing was continued he escaped unharmed, and in due time reported himself at head-quarters. Still bent on success, and giving himself no time for rest, Moody, accompanied by four trusty followers, left New York the very night of his arrival there; and as before he moved in darkness only, until he was ready to pounce upon the coveted "Rebel Mail." He incurred perils which I have not time to relate. After waylaying the rider five days, he bore off all the despatches that were sent to Whigs in the field and elsewhere, in consequence of interviews between Washington and Count Rochambeau in Connecticut.

After numberless stirring adventures, Lieutenant Moody visited England in 1781, for the sake of his health, which had been greatly shattered; he afterwards settled in Nova Scotia, and died at Weymouth in 1809.

THE TRAINING OF SOLDIERS.

During the last few years there has been a great and a gradual change in the opinions of civilized mankind regarding war. Time was when the greatest philosopher and statesman of his age could write, "But above all for empire and greatness, it importeth most that a nation do profess arms as their principal honor, study, and occupation." Now it is generally admitted by all men whose intellect gives them the right to act as leaders of mental progress that war is a curse in itself, and only to be entered upon under the pressure of dire necessity, for the preservation either of existence or of that honor without which national existence would lose much of its value. Both the men and the

money required for war are taken from the stock of productive power and ranged on the side of destruction. Some recompense to the continued necessity for armies may, however, be found in the consideration that military teaching trains large masses of men in habits of self-command and discipline.

In such countries as Russia, Austria, and even Italy, a large section of the population could hardly be reached by the schoolmaster, were not the way prepared for him by the drill-sergeant. Even in Great Britain the Army is, in great part, composed of a class who would probably not be useful members of community were they not directed by men possessing more than ordinary power, and specially trained for the purpose. But if the State takes upon itself to place special restrictions upon the liberty of any portion of the units composing it, and lays down stringent rules for their conduct and education, there is the more reason for vigilant care that the training given be of a character fitted to improve the minds and bodies of the men whose self guidance has been so restricted. Soldiers should rise, not fall, in the social scale. To a certain extent this principle is observed in the British Army the old theory that unreasoning obedience is to be the first and chief lesson taught to the soldier has been long exploded. Army schools have vastly increased in number, and most of the principal barracks have their libraries and recreation-rooms. In spite of these improvements much remains yet to be done. There is still a strong tendency to regard the man who has voluntarily resigned a portion of his liberty as a puppet to be dressed handsomely and made to dance when his officer pulls the strings. The effect of such training acts most injuriously upon the rank and file; but it reacts also upon the commanders. As soldiers advance in intelligence their officers must also advance if they would not lose their influence, and see obedience give place to grumbling acquiescence. In time of war men of all ranks learn their work thoroughly by actual practice in the duties of campaigning. In peace the tendency is always to sacrifice real efficiency to prettiness, to substitute pomp and glitter for professional perfection. Because Frederick the Great won battles with the battalions which his father had trained to a stiff severity of bearing, we are apt to magnify the corporal and forget the general. The crowds which stand gazing near the flagstaff during an English review marvel at the wonderful regularity of step, the accuracy of manoeuvre, and generally at the discipline by which tens of thousands are made to obey the commands of a single individual. Where all seems so perfect, what doubt can there be that the seeming betokens the reality of perfection? Who could outmanoeuvre the general whose orders are given with such knowledge and obeyed with such punctuality and precision? What enemy could break that solid British line? And when the unintermittent roll of the Sniders is heard and the canopy of smoke is seen to be broken by flashes so numerous as to appear almost like a sheet of flame, what more natural than to believe that an enemy must wither away before so deadly a fire?

These appearances are in a great measure deceptive. The elaborate manoeuvres cost too much time to be executed on a field of battle. There is great reason to believe that the moment when Chlum might have been retaken and the defeat of Sadowa averted was lost by the pedantic notions of an Austrian general who insisted on moving his

corps by regulation, instead of driving the nearest battalions straight at the place. One of the best artillery commanders in the Peninsular War being asked what manoeuvres he found most useful, replied, "Manoeuvres? I got in front of them and pointed out the place where they are to go." The perfect line which starts bravely to storm a position is sadly torn to pieces and filled with gaps before it arrives there. Those gallant marksmen we see at Aldershot or the Curragh need not stand up like targets in reckless contempt of safety. Their aim would be steadier if they were lying down and the recumbent position is as favorable as any other for loading since breech loaders came into use. Nor is a line of men lying down less ready for a charge when required. The motion of bodies and limbs in unison with martial music is very perfect as a show and tells of much labor on the part of the drill sergeant; but troops don't "March past," in war. The rapid fire of the Artillery is imposing, but the effect on men's minds would be less if they knew that the gunners were taking no aim.

These impressive displays are but the glitter of the blade, and tell nothing of its temper or keenness. But of all the impractical, useless—nay, injurious positions in which British soldiers are placed, perhaps the worst is that of garrison artillerymen when they are set to drill as battalions of infantry, and imitate with their carbines and swords the action of infantry soldiers. The artilleryman is, on the average, of greater stature than the Linesman. He receives higher pay, his proper duties are more complicated, and require greater intelligence. He is ill-armed for infantry work, and too expensive to be so employed. He feels himself at a disadvantage, and in an entirely false position. The better he marches past, the more time must have been abstracted from his proper training to enable him to do so. As artillery science advances, the engines with which he has to deal become more numerous and complicated. A year's course of study at Shoeburyness is not thought too much for officers who are to be thoroughly instructed in the practical work of their profession, though they have already undergone a long training at a Military College, and have passed several years with their regiment at home or abroad. It is very improbable that garrison gunners can acquire and retain the knowledge requisite for them if they are forced to learn battalion manoeuvres also. A little company drill may be of use to enable them to march without confusion and appear in proper order on their regimental parade-ground, but all infantry manoeuvres beyond that are worse than useless. The real unit of Artillery is the battery, not the battalion. If artillerymen are required to show themselves by passing a reviewing officer, they could do so in close or open column of batteries without the slightest reference to the battalion. The practices of marching past in slow time has, we hope, yielded to the adverse pressure of all instructed soldiers. France, Prussia, and Austria have got rid of marching past altogether, except on some special occasion, such as a grand review, when an Imperial or Royal master desires to inspect his army and observe its condition. All the military powers in Europe are setting themselves to train their generals and develop activity and individual intelligence among their subordinate officers and men. We sincerely hope that the British Constitutional Army will not be so backward in following the general movement as to become a laughing-stock to the foreign officers who so frequently come among us.—*London Times*;