

force, tall and smart, bring up the rear of the Home army.

"The Indian army, 145,000 strong, are the representatives of over 220,000,000 of Her Majesty's subjects, and live in an empire about 15 times the size of the British Islands. There will be detachments showing the various distinctive uniforms worn in all parts of that mighty empire.

"First of all comes the stately body-guard of the Viceroy, every man over 6 ft. in height. Bengal shows us its cavalry, its artillery, and its infantry; and from the hills of Nepal come the Goorkhas—short, sturdy men, thoroughly reliable, and well trained in the use of their terrible 'kookries.' The Punjab cavalry and infantry, including the Queen's Own corps of guides (the latter represented here by only its cavalry detachment), are among the most important of our Indian corps defending our North-West Provinces.

"The Mountain Battery of the Royal Artillery, with its train of mules, is well worthy of careful attention. You will notice that the gun takes to pieces, and is carried on mules—the nozzle piece on one, the breech-piece on another, the wheels on a third, and the carriage on a fourth. So exactly are all the pieces fitted, however, that, as the spectators will see for themselves, the gun can be put together and fired in less than one minute. There will also be troops from Madras—swarthy representatives of Southern India—followed by the pick of Bombay, the Western province; while the Irregular Horse from Central India and the Hyderabad contingent complete the Indian section.

"Next comes the Far West—representatives of our vast possessions in North America. The permanent forces come first, clad in their winter garb of fur and moccasins, with their snow shoes on their back. Next follow the South African warriors, with their broad-brimmed felt hats and Kharkee jackets—a very picturesque dress, well suited to the irregular warfare of the Veldt. Even the Cape Town Cadets are represented—a body of youths strongly resembling our own English Public School Corps.

"Australia comes next, led by the New South Wales Lancers; then follow representatives from our smaller colonies. Trinidad sends a contingent of yeomanry cavalry, in bright green uniform, and the Gold Coast is represented by the Houssa Military Police.

"I don't want to bore you," added Major Crabbe, "but I must not forget to mention, in speaking of the pageant, the Royal Malta Fencible Artillery and the Malta militia, as well as the gallant representatives of British Guiana and Hong Kong. Altogether, there will be eighty-four sections of fours, and at least 400 men will be seen in the arena at once. Major F. C. Ricardo, of the Grenadier Guards, has charge of the pageant, which

cannot fail to kindle enthusiasm in the breast of every English-speaking person."

"No wonder it takes a long time to prepare the tournament," I remarked.

"Well, this year," replied Major Crabbe, "the negotiations went on very rapidly, thanks to the hearty co-operation of various colonial governors and the Commander-in-Chief in India, Sir George White.

"By the way, there is another new feature I forgot to mention—the naval display of a blue jacket detachment from H.M.S. Excellent. In addition to the usual exhibitions of skill-at-arms, the 4th Hussars have a smart little display of their own, and after this fight one man is found to be missing when the roll is called. A comrade volunteers to go in search of him, and finds him lying wounded on the ground. Then, making his own horse lie down, he drags his comrade towards it, places him on its back, and brings him in under the enemy's fire.

"The final 'Display of all Arms' for this season is the storming of an Afghan fort. This will be not only 'realistic' in the theatrical sense, but also eminently practical. For example, in order to water the horses, a mounted detachment of the Royal Engineers will sink a Norton's tube well.

"Of course, there will be a Maxim gun on a tricycle carriage; cooking in camp; and many other features of military life. When the Afghans try to 'rush' the British, the latter at once stand to their arms and form a square round the Maxim. Then follow a fierce hand-to-hand fight; the destruction of bridges over deep ravines; and the arrival of reinforcements, including, besides infantry, the Naval Brigade, with a 7-pounder gun, and the bridging battalion of Royal Engineers, with trestle equipment.

"The bombardment of the Afghan fort is next seen, while the engineers bridge the ravine. The Afghans reply with their old-fashioned wall pieces. Presently a chance shot from the enemy injures the gun of the Naval Brigade, but the gallant sailors lose no time in making good the damage. The wounded are tended by a detachment of the Medical Staff Corps, who, immediately on their arrival, erect a field hospital, wherein the most serious cases are treated. The bridge is completed, the infantry storm the fort, the gate is blown in, the Afghans are routed, and the British take possession of the native stronghold."

As I rose to go I remarked: "I suppose the value of the prizes offered is very considerable?"

"It is," replied Major Crabbe, complacently. "Altogether it amounts to £1,079 7s."—Tit-Bits.

QUOTATIONS FROM THE POETS.

A private of a celebrated Irish regiment was brought before his commanding officer (whom we shall call O'Grady) for being

drunk. The prisoner—an elocutionist in his way—when asked by the colonel what he had to say, replied, "To err is human, to forgive divine"—Pope. Whereupon, the colonel, without a smile on his face murmured, "Fourteen days confined to barracks, 7s. 6d. fine—O'Grady."

WANT TO GO TO WAR.

AT the annual meeting of the 28th Perth held in Stratford in March the following resolution was carried: "That we, the officers of the 28th Battalion, do offer our services to the Imperial Government, to raise a regiment of volunteers in the county of Perth, province of Ontario, for active service abroad, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Commander-in-Chief of Her Majesty's army."

The officers had almost come to the conclusion that their document had miscarried or been pigeon-holed, but were agreeably surprised last week when the following was received by Capt. G. T. Cooke, acting adjutant, from the office of the Governor-General's secretary, and is as follows:

CAPT. G. T. COOKE,
28th Batt., Stratford.

SIR,—I have the honor by direction of His Excellency the Governor-General to acquaint you that he has been informed by the Secretary of State for the Colonies that a letter addressed by you to the Commander-in-Chief, tendering the services of the officers of the 28th Battalion of Canadian Infantry to the Imperial Government, for active service abroad, was duly laid before the Secretary of State for War. Lord Lansdowne has requested that it may be intimated to the officers of this regiment that he has been much gratified by the receipt of this public-spirited offer, which has been laid before the Queen for Her Majesty's information. He has added that at present there is no intention of sending any army into the field, but that should war come upon us at any time their patriotic and loyal wish will be remembered.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

(S'd.) C. T. JONES.

For the Governor-General's secretary.

SILENT LAWYERS.

Many years ago a corps known as the "Temple Corps" was inspected by Lord Harrington. As he rode along the line his lordship observed, "This regiment is composed of the members of the Law Association, is it not?" "Yes, my lord," replied the C.O., to which the Earl rejoined, "Curious that they don't speak a word; I never saw lawyers so silent." "True, my lord," replied the C.O., "but we receive no pay."