

pretty certain that the S. B. would have entirely demolished the face of the turret if not entirely disabled it, and as far as certainty of aim was concerned it would have all the advantage at the distance the vessels were apart.

At the same time it is evident that S. B. guns will be entirely superseded whenever rifled artillery shall be constructed to fulfill the specified conditions, for the same reasons that rifles superseded the old smooth bore muskets.

The gun of the future will follow the analogy closer by being a breech loader and with the improved gun carriage the war machinery of the period will be complete, till some new agent of greater force, less expensive in application and more destructive in effect is applied.

The first part of the Report on the late Autumn Manœuvres in England, copied from the *Broad Arrow*, appears in our issue today, and will be continued till the whole is completed.

Our object in publishing this Report is to give our readers the best possible idea of what has really occurred, the plan, object, and method by which those manœuvres were carried out, as well as an opportunity for judging of their possible value.

We would at the same time remark that newspaper criticism on military manœuvres, especially as developed by the English press, is utterly worthless. It is hardly to be supposed that any officer of sufficient experience in actual practical warfare to be a competent judge, would so severely handle experimental manœuvres, and the value of the criticisms of half pay subalterns, many of whom have left the service for reasons not creditable to their military instincts, are worth nothing; a man may be a smart newspaper correspondent and a thoroughly useless as well as stupid soldier.

This evil course is not confined to *lay* journals, but professed organs of the services deal very hardly with the design and execution of the Autumn Manœuvres. Our contemporary, the *Broad Arrow*, is excessively severe on H. R. Highness the Commander-in-chief, because he complimented the General Officers and Staff by the following General Order:—

"At the conclusion of the Autumn Manœuvres of 1872, His Royal Highness the Field Marshal Commanding-in-Chief has infinite pleasure in expressing to the troops generally his entire satisfaction at the manner in which they have been carried out.

"His special thanks are due to Lieutenant General Sir John Michel, G.C.B., and Lieut. General Sir Robert Walpole, K.C.B., the officers commanding the two *corps d'armée*, upon whom, with their immediate staff, the responsibilities have mainly rested.

"Divisional general officers, officers commanding brigades, and heads of departments, have carried out all the details of their respective duties with the greatest zeal and assiduity, setting an example to the officers, non commissioned officers, and men,

including those of the auxiliary forces, under their orders, which has found a ready and willing response on the part of the troops.

The exemplary conduct of all ranks, and the cheerful manner in which they have met the fatigues and discomfort incidental to large operations in the field, have been thoroughly appreciated by His Royal Highness; and have elicited from the civil population with whom they have been brought in contact, the highest and most deserved encomiums, producing a reciprocal feeling of cordiality, which must be considered in a public sense as equally valuable and gratifying.

"The thanks of His Royal Highness are also due to the Umpire Staff for the efficient manner in which they have performed their important duties.—By Command, J. W. AMSTRONG, Deputy Adjutant General.

"Headquarters, Salisbury, September 12."

The *Broad Arrow* contends that the thanks of the Commander-in-chief has been expressed in stronger language than that of the pious Kaiser who "had reason to thank God when things turned out better than likely," and doubts the fact of the infinite pleasure expressed in the order.

As our contemporary is a violent admirer of Mr. CARDWELL it is just possible his dislike to the Royal Commander-in-chief may explain the uncalled for severity of the conclusion of its leading article, which is entitled "*Sham in Excelcis*," it is as follows:—

"We have before objected that the fair limits of sham and make-believe were overpassed in certain incidents of the campaign, and the value of the manœuvres was seriously impaired in consequence. The same remark applies to this "Order of the Day." It carries too far the art of making things pleasant, because it has no respect for the limits—we will not say of strict truthfulness, but even of probability. It is no compliment either to Sir John Michel or to Sir Robert Walpole to suppose them capable of feeling flattered by expressions so meaningless. There has been scarcely an important incident in the manœuvres which has not afforded ground for severe criticism, both in conception and execution; yet, we are to believe His Royal Highness feels "infinite pleasure" in expressing his "entire satisfaction" with everything. Sir John Michel wins by a flanking march through a town supposed to be strongly garrisoned, in the "general idea" of the campaign; yet his Royal Highness feels "infinite pleasure" in expressing his "entire satisfaction," &c. Cavalry are annihilated by cannon three miles off, which guns were firing, not at the cavalry for the most part, but at an opposing battery, and His Royal Highness feels "infinite pleasure" in recalling the fact to mind. Guns without ammunition were supposed to have crushed whole regiments, yet the Duke is pleased. The general plan of the campaign was misunderstood; the two armies mutually cut each other's communications, turned each other's flanks, captured each other's baggage, and occupied each other's ground—the Duke is *infinitely* pleased—God bless him!

"We have no wish to spoil His Royal Highness's digestion by saying anything unpleasant. This is only the second time of trying, and many things may be better managed next year. But we have felt it to be no more than our duty to protest in good time against the excess of sham, and of all sham, sham praise is the worst. If you make believe a stone wall is a bit of aerial perspective, you may find out the mistake by knocking your

head against it. If you choose to agree that a forest is a marsh, and then allow yourself to be surprised by the enemy who uses it as a forest, you will probably not be caught napping a second time. A hundred shams of this accidental kind—using the term accidental as schoolmen or philosophers may—are not half so dangerous as sham praise, which covers all accidents with a deceptive gloss, and corrupts the faculty itself for perceiving the truth and for judging between right and wrong. We feel "infinite pleasure" in presenting the Duke with this idea for his consideration, when he next pens an "Order of the Day."

While quite prepared to admit all fair criticism we cannot too severely condemn the use of such language by a military journal, and in no other country in the civilised world except England would it be tolerated.

It is a direct attack on discipline, and it is a direct abnegation of duty for any journal professing to be an exponent of military interests to indulge therein.

There is one error for which we do not believe the DUKE OF CAMBRIDGE to be accountable, but look at it as the result of the WAR MINISTER's interference that lies at the root of all the alleged mistakes of the campaign, it is that of "*prescribing the manœuvres*," and thereby restricting the Generals in the field to movements incompatible with the real strategy or tactics which the case under consideration demanded, and at variance with all actual experience in warfare.

The *Broad Arrow* and its contemporaries consciously or unconsciously are preparing for the British Army a system of *Field Deputies* taken from Attorneys-at-Law, Manchester Cotton Spinners, or Birmingham Iron Founders, that will leave the old Dutch prototypes nothing to boast of in the way of disgrace and disaster.

The "General Order" was a fitting termination to an arduous service, whatever the *Broad Arrow* may say to the contrary; but it is evident that nothing short of a grave disaster will awaken the people of England to a sense of the fools paradise in which Whig Radicalism has landed them.

The close of the Autumn Manœuvres in England has given opportunity for a good deal of criticism, by far the larger part of which is worthless except as a newspaper article. Several journals, however, have undertaken the praise-worthy task of speculating on the probable consequences to the army and the effect on the foreign policy of Great Britain; amongst others, the correspondent of the *Montreal Gazette*, in describing the final review of the troops and the march past, says:—

"It would add much to the interest of these great military shows, (the taste for which, hitherto dormant, is fast growing) if select bodies of colonial troops could take part in them. The presence of even a single company of Canadian militia would have doubled the enthusiasm with which the army was received."

We have sent a detachment to Wimbledon,