

was with the front lines, and the movements were accordingly directed by cavalry officers exclusively. Whichever side attacks to-morrow will have to encounter the disadvantage of marching up-hill, but the point where the attempt will be made is one most difficult to determine, for the Northern outposts guard a front from six to eight miles, and the point at which the South could most easily break through is one where they would suffer most from want of water. The duty of umpire on those occasions is one requiring no ordinary amount of tact, professional knowledge, and discretion, to discharge successfully, and so as to avoid offence to brother officers at a moment of such great and pardonable excitement. The umpires have each power absolutely to stop a movement that is in progress, but naturally they would be slow to exercise their power except in the plainest and most obvious circumstances. The rule is to change the side or at any rate the division to which an umpire is attached, so that, if possible, he may not have any *penchant* or predilection for a particular corps. To-day the turn of umpire was really no sinecure, for he had more than once to ride in between charging lines to prevent them coming into actual collision.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH.

"General Idea" of the Campaign.—The following official paper has been issued, and is quite necessary to a correct appreciation of the details of the manoeuvres which follow:

—The operations of the manoeuvres are represented by the action of the two corps forming the advanced portions of the two opposing armies. The Blandford (or Southern) Corps is part of a force which is marching from Weymouth on London, Dorchester is occupied, and a strong detachment has been sent forward towards Yeovil to cut the Wilts, Somerset, and Weymouth line of railway. Another strong detachment has reached Sturminster Newton, on September 5, in order to watch the Somerset and Dorset Railway, and to prevent any attack being made on the communications of the Southern Army from the direction of Wells or Bath. The right flank is protected by a force of 10,000 men, which has been landed at Poole for the purpose of co-operating with the Dorchester Corps, and has reached Ringwood by the 5th of September. Moreover, the whole invading force on this side of England (which may be taken at less than 50,000 men) is subsidiary to a main invasion on the eastern or southeastern coast. This invasion is in process of being checked. On the north side a corps of 15,000 men is collected at Pewsey, and constitutes the advanced portion of a force assembled at Aldershot, to stop the progress of the invader. In addition to this force troops are being got together at Bristol and Bath, and are preparing to join the Pewsey Corps should it advance to the Willey, or to support it if forced to retreat from the line of that river. Part of these reinforcements are capable of being sent forward to the neighbourhood of Warminster by the 6th of September. A strong position, that south of Salisbury, as well as the city itself, is held by the defending army, the force here amounting to about 6000 men of all arms. Wilton is occupied by a force of 3000 men. The Salisbury position is supposed to be too strong to allow of its being carried by the force advancing from the direction of Ringwood. The generals in command of the respective corps at Pewsey and Blandford have on the above suppositions full liberty of action (subject, of course,

to orders to be issued during the progress of the operations), with one restriction—namely, that neither force must cross the Willey river before four a.m. on the 6th of September. In naming this date no reference is made to the movements of the cavalry and horse artillery. Salisbury Plain offers peculiar advantages for the manoeuvres of these arms, and no doubt the generals in command of the corps will make the fullest use of their services during the advance. By Command.—J. W. ARMSTRONG, D. A.G.

Passage of the Willey.—Battle of Codford Hill.—After the Cavalry action of Thursday in which the tactical skill of the Northern horse did not show to as much advantage as their powers of making rapid night marches the actual fighting began to-day with the battle of Codford. The Northern Army stood on the defensive. Having seized the strong heights above the Willey, and having that stream flowing right across his front, Sir Robert Walpole decided to await the enemy's attack, on the principle that in real war the defender's aim would be to gain time for the assembling of the troops of the country and to check the advance of the invaders who would be anxious not to lose the advantage which their sudden landing had given them, and who would hardly hope to succeed if they did not do so at once. Hence there was as much reality about the appearance of the opening engagement as was possible.

Shortly after daybreak, therefore, the Northern generals disposed their advanced brigades in much the same way as yesterday, holding the Salisbury and Warminster road with outpost and a chain of sentries from Wilton to Codford, and guarding the various fords and bridges along the Willey. The reserves were brought up close in rear, and entirely concealed from view. A battery of field guns was planted behind the clump of trees on Little Down, and effectually concealed behind an artful construction of turf and haycocks. A similar battery was placed on an adjacent eminence to the right. The cavalry were chiefly in force in the valleys at the back of Lamb Down. Eight o'clock was the hour fixed for the fight, and the moment that hour was passed the enemy's invasion was anxiously awaited. But strange to say, the staff of the defending force throughout the morning did not seem to have any idea from which quarter to expect the attack. About nine o'clock a squadron of the 19th Hussars crossed the river and appeared to be reconnoitring the enemy, but to little purpose, or Sir Alfred Horsford would have met with a more adequate reception when he delivered his attack. Several troops of McMahon's cavalry continually manoeuvred within sight and range of the guns on Little Down, but it was seemingly only a feint, unsuccessful, as it happened, to discover what positions the artillery held. About eleven o'clock the whole of Brownrigg's Division on Stockton Down was visible to the spectators on Lamb Down, and whether the entire army was supposed to be there instead of half, I cannot say; but, at any rate, no visible emotion was depicted on the visages of the Northern brigadiers, and meanwhile Horsford's contingent was rapidly approaching, unmolested and unperceived, to turn their right flank. When the cavalry outposts, driven in by superior numbers, came galloping back through Codford, regiments were hurried up from the left; but the defending force was certainly surprised, and why its cavalry made no reconnaissances of sufficient scope to ascertain the enemy's whereabouts seems to require elucidation.

We must now explain the tactics of the Southern Army. Seeing that the position of Walpole's left was covered by the imaginary force of 3000 men at Wilton, and 6000 men at Salisbury, Sir John Michel determined to direct his attack on and round the right flank, which rested on the heights over Codford; and in order to do so with effect and deceive the enemy, who looked very jealously after their left, about Wishford and Stapleford, he ordered a battalion of infantry, a squadron of cavalry, and two guns to advance from the pond on Telford Down till it came in view on the ridge, when it was to dip into Dinton Beeches wood; then come again in sight at Hangin Langford; then disappear in the wood and behind it, and wheeling round out of sight to return to the point whence it had started, and set out at once to do the same thing again, thus giving the Northerners an idea that a force of horse, foot, and guns was moving eastward to force the passage of the Willey near Wishford. No doubt it made Walpole very uneasy if he shared the apprehensions of his outposts and of those who observed this Birnam Wood-like performance, and were convinced that Grovelly was "crawling with Southerner." Meanwhile, Sir Alfred Horsford led the 1st Division quietly, but rapidly through and behind the woods and down the sinuous valleys of Stockton, Sherrington, and Boyton Downs, until he reached Upton Lovel and Cortington. Here his troops, who had admirably preserved their invisibility throughout the march, forded the River Willey unopposed, and bringing up their left shoulders, advanced cautiously on Codford Knook, and Horse Hill. The taking of the village was very interesting and realistic. The houses were loopholed, the road barricaded, the bridges blown up—that is, these little details were carried out theoretically, by affixing expansory placards to the walls and posts—and successive lines of infantry contested every inch of ground with the most stubborn determination. Volley after volley was poured in on either side, and some of the peaceably disposed inhabitants must have begun to imagine that they were being invaded in earnest, so deafening was the rattle of the musketry, so dense the sulphurous smoke which shrouded the narrow lane, and so eagerly combative the contending regiments. So the Guards poured into the doomed hamlet, and in less than a quarter of an hour they held undisturbed possession, for the remnants of its defenders had found it imperative to retreat on Codford Hill.

(To be continued.)

SAVED FROM PIRATES.—The Germany bark *Coriolan* was attacked by pirates some months ago in the Indian Ocean, and lost ten persons out of her crew of eighteen. But for a device of the captain, who poured liquor tar on the deck and studded it with glass, thus causing the pirates to fall and cut their feet, the vessel would have been readily captured. When nearly every man of the crew had been killed or wounded, a British gunboat came to the aid of the *Coriolan*, and destroyed or captured nearly all the pirates. The prisoners ten in number, were summarily disposed of by being hanged at the yard arm.

The population of New Brunswick is 225,000, and that of Nova Scotia, 378,000. Halifax has 28,000 inhabitants, and St. John including Portland its near suburb, over 50,000.