

ticularly good shots; whereas infantry of the Line were armed with smoothbore muskets, and, in the way of hitting a mark, could not shoot at all. Now every infantry soldier is supposed to be a good marksman; and 'liuesmen' and 'chassours,' sharpshooters or 'schutzen,' are armed alike.

"It may be noticed, too, that the cavalry in General Clinchant's corps are dragoons, from which one might fancy that no other description of cavalry was recognized in the newly organized French army. Practically, too that is the case. Cuirasses are discarded as well as lances: Cuirassiers and lanciers exist no more, and the French cavalry, but for differences of uniform, would all be of the same uniform pattern—neither 'light' nor 'heavy' but presumably fit for duties of all kinds. Some cavalry regiments are uniformed as dragoons, some as chassours, some as hussars, and every army corps has attached to it, or rather includes in an integral part of its force, four cavalry regiments of one of these three descriptions."

During the first few days the two divisions underwent training by manoeuvres in the company, battalion, regiment, and brigade companies preliminary to the combined movements to be executed in Marshal MacMahon's presence. On the evening of the 11th instant (Friday last week) the Veron Division had received orders to march upon Lens and attack the Lecointre Division. Supported by its cavalry (says the correspondent of the *Times*), it rapidly moved on the right bank of the river, where it assumed a strong position. On the 12th the two divisions both executed a preliminary movement directed towards a common line, with the view of accepting battle. On the same day, the advanced guard of cavalry moved considerably forward, so that two lines of skirmishers had engaged in musketry fire. After this had been kept up part of the afternoon, and after an attempt to reconnoitre each cavalry took up a position for the next day. Both the two small armies encamped on the field. The attack was fixed for the moment when the marshal, attended by his staff and superior officers of the Clinchant Corps, passed the lines of the two divisions. At that instant the cavalry of the Veron Division, stationed at the extremity of its left wing, attempted to turn the right flank of the Lecointre Division. A very warm attack was made at the same time on the centre, and the artillery of the Veron Division supported this by pressing on the left wing of the Lecointre Division. General Lecointre ordered his right wing to move immediately forward, and by a brisk musketry fire to check the movement of the Veron cavalry. The centre of the Lecointre Division at the same time made a very rapid combined movement on the Veron division, the cavalry supporting it by moving to the front; while the artillery, by a downward fire, replied to the artillery of the Veron Division. The various defensive movements of the Lecointre Division were effected in capital time and with much energy causing the enemy's ranks to hesitate. General Lecointre took advantage of this by assuming the offensive, and success soon turned to his side. The Veron Division gave way, and protected, however, by its artillery, retired in the direction of Liéris d'Ouchel and the trenches of Ouchel. At one o'clock it was in full retreat, steadily protected, however, by its artillery, with the cavalry on its right flank. It retired on the plateau of Eguinegate, where it reformed again, offering battle.

The Commander-in-Chief evidently did not calculate on the rapidity with which

the manoeuvres were executed, for Marshal MacMahon was expected at Ouchel till five o'clock. To the astonishment of everybody, he made his appearance at one, accompanied by an English officer deputed to watch the autumn manoeuvres of the Clinchant Corps. Covers had been laid for twenty-four at the house of M. Deruel, mining engineer, of Ouchel, but the dinner was not to be ready till five. The Prince de Bègue, the marshal's orderly officer, was the first to arrive on the spot, and, sensible that after five hours' military movements the greatest warrior would be hungry, hastily took possession of a poor village inn, where, an hour afterwards, the President of the Republic, the Minister of War, General Clinchant, and all the marshal's staff—the English officer being placed beside him—were seated before a breakfast improvised by the cook of a small country inn. An apology being made to the marshal, he replied, "But I have often been forced to breakfast by simply tightening my sword-belt." At 2.30 a banquet with forty covers, presided over by M. Darcey, Prefect of the Pas de Calais, was given to the Mayors of Cambrai, in a shed attached to the Ouchel Mines. This evening 900 miners, their mining lamps in their hands, defiled before the marshal greeting him with acclamations. At day-break to-morrow the marshal starts on horseback to witness the end of the manoeuvres. It is to be hoped that this time General Clinchant's calculations will be more exact: for if a real battle was in question, who could predict the consequences of an estimate which was four hours out?

WITH THE DUC D'AUMALE.

For the proceedings in the camp on the Haute-Saône, we are indebted to the *Daily News*. It was Sunday, the 13th instant, when he arrived on the scene at Gray. "Eight o'clock was the hour fixed for commencement of operations. [This was the third day of the manoeuvres.] Before that the town was busy with aides-de-camp and orderly riding rapidly through the streets. In front of the Hotel de Paris a crowd had collected to watch the departure of the Duc d'Aumale. Monseigneur was not long in making his appearance, mounted on a serviceable looking chestnut. Something had been forgotten in his escort, which seemed to put the duke rather out; as he turned sharply to the officer in his suite, remarking it would not do to be unpunctual on such an occasion. This Orleans prince has the perfect soldier's look, his thin, sharp features being forced into the expression of a man to whom the smell of powder is familiar; and not the powder of relics only, but taken in conjunction with shot and shell. Ill-natured people says he has the air of a cavalry *sous-officier*, but in justice it must be conceded he carries off his general of division and Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour well. Bonapartists ask what services gained him these ranks and honours; but as we are not Bonapartists it is not worth while investigating the duke's military career, which is generally understood to have been an honorable one. In the saddle he has not that calm, judicial air which was familiar to frequenters of the Trianon last October.

"The official programme of the manoeuvres as follows:—The troops comprising the 7th Army Corps, whose headquarters is at Besançon, will execute a series of movements between Vesoul, Gray, and Besançon. The general of division commanding the forces the Duc d'Aumale, has drawn up his plan in three parts—1st, pre-

paratory movements; 2nd, operations of the two divisions against each other; 3rd, a general march of the army corps during which last period no fighting will take place. The enemy, represented by the 13th Infantry Division, is supposed to have passed the Vosges, a brigade is bearing down on Vesoul midway between Basel and Dijon to take the defender's left in flank, and make a reconnaissance in the direction of Besançon, while the other brigade is marching on Gray.

"The General commanding the 14th Division is charged with repulsing the demonstration of Vesoul. A brigade advances from Dole, some five and twenty miles to the southward of this town, in order to defend the passage of the Saône. The enemy beats a retreat, and rallies the bulk of its division, in the neighbourhood of Gray in order to force the river by a surprise. The defending brigade, not being able to hold Gray, is obliged to evacuate the town. The 27th Brigade rejoins the latter, and by their joint manoeuvres forces the enemy to beat a retreat to the northward. These operations finished, the two divisions unite, and, under the command of the general-in-chief covered by the whole body of cavalry, execute a march to the front. The 13th Division is placed under the command of General Jeanningros, the 14th division under that of General de Maussion. Four batteries of artillery are placed under the orders of Colonel Bagère. The general of division, the Duc d'Aumale, with his staff, is assisted by General de Bassoigne, commander-in-chief of artillery, and the Intendant Montandon.

"The staff rode post, making for the town, after about two hours' work for a table d'hôte breakfast at the Hôtel de Paris. Not very like war that! But the Duc d'Aumale is an hospital man, and having on his hands three or four English officers, including a general, to say nothing of Swedish, Austrian, Belgian, and Japanese representatives, he probably does not like to expose them to campaigning fare of passage and a pull at the flask. Still, 'memory will bring back that feeling' of German criticisms about the *petite guerre* at Châlons in the Emperor's time, when, to use their courteous but eupathic language, they knew 'it that was nothing.' But no campaigner ever grumbled having a full belly rather than an empty one, so we returned none the less satisfied that these gentlemen are not so far carried away by professional enthusiasm as to forget the wants of nature. The d'ile of the staff is decidedly brilliant. The duke takes the lead naturally like a born commander, looking as though he only wanted the opportunity to play the part in earnest. Very different from Marshal MacMahon, who looks a general of division, and nothing more. Among the foreign military guests the English attracted most notice from their comparatively unknown uniform, characteristic air and good mounts. They looked every inch soldiers, Englishmen, and gentlemen, which combination is not so common among some armies. But all the strangers attached to the staff had a distinguished air, and met with great respect from the French officers. The Prussian uniform was wanting, and I could not find that any one from that army was present. The operations were resumed after the two hours' halt under most favorable aspects as regards weather. The defender's movement in retreat continued in spite of some brilliant cavalry charges in the plain, which, in real warfare, would have ensured the fate of the French cuirass-