

by the 20th Hussars, Gen. Grenfell won his victory at Toski over the most daring of Mahdist leaders, and broke completely the tide of Arab invasion.

The article omits to mention that the first officer to put his hand to the work of organising the Egyptian Army after the battle of Tel el Kebir was the late Valentine Baker Pasha, who was sedulously engaged in doing so, and had indeed laid the basis for the present organisation, when, in direct opposition to the Khedive, he was deposed from the office of Sirdar by orders from Downing Street, and relegated to the task of forming a Police or Gendarmerie, which still exists as a permanent force in Egypt. Baker Pasha had ceased to be a British officer. It is not necessary now to revert to the story of his appointment and of the dismissal which appeared in the "Army and Naval Gazette" in the letters of our correspondent at Cairo (Nov. 1882), but it is only justice to the memory of that unfortunate officer to say that he set out with the principle that British officers were essential for the force he designed to create and had indeed gone far to form."

Gen. Kitchener's services during the past ten years have been eminent. After the battles of Teb and Tamai, he, with Rundle, remained at Korosko—the only two Englishmen—and frustrated all Mahdist attempts to foment a revolt there. A little later Kitchener volunteered to go alone to Dongola, and thence pushed on southwards to Ambukol, carrying his life in his hand; while he treated with tribes whose sheiks were on the verge of throwing in their lot with the Mahdi. As a brigadier in command of Soudanese at Suakim, as Governor-General of the Eastern Soudan, as commander of the flying column in the flight at Toski, and as Adjutant-General of the Army under Sir Francis Grenfell, Col. Kitchener gave further evidence of the qualities that fitted him in turn for the post of Sirdar, which he has filled since May of 1892. Nearly all the British officers now under him in the Khedive's service have seen much active campaigning with native troops, and some among them know the country from Alexandria to Korti, from the Red Sea to the Sahara. To Col. Wodehouse, who first organised an effective frontier force at Wady Halfa, the Egyptian Army owes much; as it does to Col. Rundle, Col. Hunter, Major Parsons, Major Wingate, and a host of juniors. There are some—like Capt. Martyn, who commands the famous 9th Soudanese battalion, and Capt. Pain—who spend their leave in attendance at European manoeuvres in England, France, Germany, or Austria, at their own cost, working hard all the while to perfect themselves for duties with the Khedive's Army. Recently Major Burn-Murdoch, who in action has shown a capacity for the leadership of men not less conspicuous than his mastery of administrative details or his skill in handling tactical units at peace manoeuvres, resigned his appointment on the Assistant Adjutant-General's Staff at Aldershot to take command of the Egyptian cavalry. The Army and Navy Gazette.

Lord Roberts on Afghanistan.

Lord Roberts was present at the Cheltenham College on Saturday night at a lecture by Col. Graham on "Recent Wars and Political Events in Afghanistan." At the conclusion of the lecture, the Principal of the College the Rev. H.A. James, B.D., congratulated the audience on having with them the hero of the campaign they

had heard described. Lord Roberts, who had a most enthusiastic reception said that the name of Afghanistan had been familiar to the people of England for more than half a century. The annihilation of Elphinstone's force in the disastrous campaign of 1841-42 created a feeling antagonistic to our having anything further to do with Afghanistan; but he hoped that the second Afghan War had done much to lessen that feeling, and that the success which had attended Sir Mortimer Durand's recent mission to Cabul had quite done away with it. We could not free ourselves from the responsibilities forced upon us by the position which Afghanistan occupied on the North-West frontier of India. It was a problem which the Ministry in England and the Government in India had to solve. He had no doubt that we were right in what we were doing to endeavour to become more intimately acquainted with the Ameer. That was a policy which he had advocated for many years, and Sir Mortimer Durand by his skill and tact had shown that it would probably be successful. Afghanistan had a peculiar interest for him (Lord Roberts). His late father had served throughout nearly the whole of the first war, and for any success that attended his own operations in the second war he was greatly indebted to the experiences of his father, which he, as a boy, had never tired listening to. Lord Roberts then mentioned that sixteen Cheltenham College boys lost their lives in the second Afghan war, and hoped that the lads before him would be worthy of their brave predecessors, concluding by congratulating the college upon its successes at examinations for admission to Sandhurst and Woolwich.

A Soldier's Toast.

Here's to the health of the lads in red,
Long may they live to fight
Old England's foes, wherever they're led,
And prove old England's might.

We see them marching gaily by,
To sound of drum and life;
Their treasured colors waving high,
Symbolic of their life.

No pampered carpet knights are they,
That sponge on Britain's fame,
But always duty's call obey—
Soldiers in heart, not name.

For there, beneath those scarlet coats
And all that outward show,
Lies "grit" on which the nation dotes—
The terror of the foe.

The savage wild, with bow and spear,
Or nations armed to date,
Can ne'er make British red-coats fear
To stand and meet their fate.

The annals of our country tell
Of many a gallant deed,
Where warriors, true and noble, fell
In times of England's need.

Our soldier lads know not defeat—
Theirs is to do or die—
"Forward!" their motto, not "Retreat!"
And "Charge!" their battle cry.

From saucy little drummer boy,
Or private in the ranks,
To the highest in the Queen's employ,
All well deserve our thanks.

So, fill your glasses once again,
And toast the lads so true;
'Tis they who glorify the reign—
The old Red, White, and Blue!

—Alg. B. Durham, in The Volunteer Record.

The Rural Corps.

Lieut.-Colonel Lindsay's Suggestions for Increasing their Efficiency.

One of the most interesting of the many interesting and instructive addresses delivered during the season before the Military Institute was given last evening by Lieut.-Col. Lindsay, of the 25th Battalion, St. Thomas. His lecture was "A few ideas with a view to the improvement of rural corps (infantry)." Lieut.-Col. Mason, R.G., vice-president of the institute, occupied the chair, and among those present were Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, R.C.D.; Lieut.-Col. Farewell, Oshawa; Capt. Fleming, G.G.B.G.; Capt. Lessard, R.C.D.; Lieut. Forrester, R.C.D.; Lieut. Laurie, R.R.C.I.; Capt. H. Brock, late Q.O.R.; Major Manley, late R.G.; Lieut. Fahey, R.L.; Mr. Fred Glockmeyer, Mr. H. Wade, Lieut.-Col. Peel; Mr. F. J. Dixon, R.L.; Capt. Mackay, R.G.; Capt. Wallace; Capt. Knight, Oxford Rifles; Major Nelles, 37th Batt.; Major Duff, 36th Batt.; Lieut. Armstrong, 36th Batt.; Capt. Trotter, R.G.; Capt. Thompson, G.G.B.G.; Capt. Chambers, 6th Fusiliers, Montreal.

In the course of his address Lieut.-Col. Lindsay attributed nearly all the difficulties that the rural corps are now contending with to the fact that the active militia was first organized as independent companies, and that when some years later these companies were grouped into battalions considerable of the old independent company system was allowed to remain. So much of it in fact remained that the so-called commanding officer of the battalion was only its commanding officer when it was called out for annual drill or active service. Another case to which he referred was that of the care of arms and accoutrements. The officer commanding a company was in no way responsible to his commanding officer for the care of these, or in fact for any company stores in his possession. Col. Lindsay considered that the arms and accoutrements should be under the care of a properly qualified and paid official, who would have nothing else to attend to, and this very fact in itself would prevent the deterioration which now takes place through lack of proper care and cleaning. The present system of recruiting of rural corps also came in for criticism. A better system would be to make the sergeant of each section of a company do the recruiting, and give him a bonus, say \$1 per man, for the work he did, the drill instruction money now given to each captain of a company to be withdrawn from him and divided among these sergeants. A number of other important points were dwelt on at considerable length.

One important suggestion was that the rural corps should be called out for their annual course of training during the winter months, the work being done in barracks instead of in camp. Still another suggestion was that some sort of an adequate allowance should be made to rural adjutants for this work.

The lecturer was criticised by Capt. Knight of the Oxford Rifles, who agreed with Col. Lindsay as far as the recruiting and assembling at battalion headquarters were concerned; but he was prepared to go farther and have the companies drilled at company headquarters, going to brigade camp only once in four or five years. Under the present system, owing to the amount of hard work entailed on every officer and man who has to attend brigade camps, they have become decidedly unpopular. Some change was absolutely necessary if the rural corps were to continue to exist. He strongly advocated in contradistinction to the recent general orders that the ceremonial part should not be entirely obliterated, as it was necessary for recruiting purposes that a certain amount of that popular display should take place which infuses due pride and dignity among the corps when they appear before the public.