

ANCIENT CAVALRY.

The horse appears to have been used in warfare at a very early period of human history.

Homer's heroes went to battle in war-chariots drawn by horses. The war-chariot also appears on the ancient Egyptian monuments. But the Assyrians seem to have been the first to mount the warrior on his horse, as represented on their monuments.

The Medes and Persians had what is called irregular cavalry, such as to this day exist in oriental countries. It was with irregular cavalry, each man fighting very much in his own way, and on his own account, that the Moslems achieved some of their most important conquests.

The formative mind of the Greeks first conceived the idea of regular cavalry, subject to a complete system of tactics, and moving in ranks and files. In their hands it became a most formidable arm.

The Spartans, however, not being a horse breeding and horse-riding nation, having imitated their neighbors so far as to raise bodies of cavalry, used always discreetly to dismount and do their fighting on foot, when they fell in with the enemy's infantry.

The first great battle in which cavalry played an important part was that of the Granica's, 334 B. C., between the Macedonians and Persians. As the Macedonian infantry crossed the river the Persian cavalry charged down upon them repeatedly before they could form to receive them, and drove them back with great slaughter into the water. Three years afterwards at the battle of Arbela, the Macedonian cavalry had its revenge. It was led by Alexander in person, who, watching his opportunity, and seeing an opening between the enemy's left and centre, dashed in, cut the army in pieces, and then destroyed it in detail, a feat which could have been accomplished only with well-disciplined horse.

One of the greatest battles of ancient times was that of Canæ, 216 B. C., between the Romans and Carthaginians. The Romans went into the fight with 80,000 infantry, and 6,000 cavalry; the Carthaginians with 40,000 infantry, and 10,000 cavalry. But the Carthaginian cavalry was vastly superior to the Romans, and, having dispersed the latter, it fell upon the Roman cavalry in flank and rear, and cut it up with prodigious

slaughter. In this great battle the Romans lost 70,000 foot soldiers, and of their 6,000 horses only seventy men escaped; a most disastrous defeat, which is conceded to have been entirely due to the Carthaginian cavalry.

ARAB HOSPITALITY.

In 1804, Osman Bardissy was the most influential of the Mameluke Beys, and virtually governed Egypt. Mehemet Ali, then rising into power, succeeded in embroiling the powerful old chief with Elfy Bey, another of the Mamelukes. The latter escaped to England, where he was favorably received and promised assistance by the government against Osman, who was in the French interests. At this time a Sheikh of Bedouin stood high in Osman's confidence, and brought him intelligence that Elfy had landed at Alexandria.

"Go, then," said the old Bey, "surprise his boat and slay him on his way up the river; his spoil shall be our reward."

The Sheikh lay in wait upon the banks of the Delta, and slew all the companions of the rival Bey; Elfy himself escaped in the darkness, and made his way to an Arab encampment before sunrise. Going straight to the Sheikh's tent, which is known by a spear standing in front of it, he entered and hastily devoured some bread that he found there. The Sheikh was absent, but his wife exclaimed on seeing the fugitive.—

"I know you, Elfy Bey, and my husband's life, perhaps, at this moment, depends upon his taking yours. Rest now and refresh yourself, then take the best horse you can find and fly. The moment you are out of our horizon the tribe will be in-pursuit of you."

The Bey escaped to the Thebaid, and the disappointed Sheikh presented himself to his employer. Osman passionately demanded of him if it was true that his wife had saved the life of his deadliest enemy, when in her power.

"Most true, praised be Allah!" replied the Sheikh, drawing himself proudly up, and presenting a jewel hilted dagger to the old Bey. "This weapon," he continued, "was your gift to me in the hour of your favor; had I met Elfy Bey it should have freed you from your enemy. Had my wife betrayed the hospitality of the tent, it should have drank her

blood; and now you may use it against myself," he added, as he flung it at the Mameluke's feet. This reverence for hospitality is one of the wild virtues that has survived from the days of the patriarchs, and it is singularly contrasted, yet interwoven with other and apparently opposite tendencies. The Arab will rob you, if he is able; he will even murder you, if it suits his purpose; but, once under the shelter of his tribe's black tents or having eaten of his salt by the way-side, you have as much safety in his company as his heart's blood can purchase for you. The Bedouins are extortionate to strangers, dishonest to each other, and reckless of human life. On the other hand, they are faithful to their trust, brave after their fashion, temperate, and patient of hardship and privation beyond belief. Their sense of right and wrong are not founded on the Decalogue, as may be well imagined, yet from such principles as they profess they rarely swerve. Though they will freely risk their lives to steal, they will not contravene the wild rule of the desert. If a wayfarer's camel sinks and dies beneath its burden the owner draws a circle round the animal in the sand, and follows the caravan. No Arab will presume to touch that ladling, however tempting. Dr. Robinson mentions that he saw a tent hanging from a tree near Mount Sinai, which his Arab said had then been there a twelve month, and never would be touched until its owner returned in search of it.

A CHINESE ORDER OF THE DAY.

A letter from an officer serving in the Chinese expedition, to a friend, gives the following laughable order of the day published by one of the Chinese commanders directing his soldiers what they are to do in order to overcome their enemies. It is drawn up in the form of a training bill of fare for thirteen days:—

"This is commanded by me, the chief of the Braves. Let all tremble and obey. On the thirteenth day before the battle they must eat jelly made from tiger's flesh, in order to imbibe the rage and ferocity of that animal; the twelfth day before, the roasted liver of a lion, in order to have the intrepidity of that noble beast; the eleventh day, stewed serpents, in order to acquire their cunning; tenth, extract of cameleon, to deceive their enemies by