

## WHY?

Why is the wrong so strong,  
And the right so weak and poor?  
Why goes black bread to the patient man,  
And gold to the evil doer.

Why dies the noble cause  
We periled it to save,  
While the baleful growth of an upstart sin  
O'er shadows a nation's grave?

Why died that widow's son?  
He was all she had to bless,  
The children crowd round the selfish heart,  
And gain but a cold carress.

Who reads the riddle right?  
And who can an awe why  
These clouds sweep over our mortal life?  
Not you brave priest, nor I.

Why came a throbbing pain  
To the heart so firm and fair,  
While the crown of wealth and of blithesome  
health  
Some lesser angels wear?

Why went that young life out  
On honor's perilous road?  
The carping tongue and the jealous mind  
Stay here to wound and goad.

A picture once I saw—  
Three crosses against the sky;  
And the heaviest cross was the highest one;  
Perhaps that answers why.

To wave the banner and wreath  
Was the privilege of the Jew;  
But the boon to carry the heavy cross,  
Was reserved, dear lord for you.

—Galaxy.

## AUSTRIAN AUTUMN MANŒUVRES.

(Continued from Page 551.)

"The Austrian Army has evidently taken to heart the lessons taught by the Prussians in 1870: as to the employment of cavalry hovering about long before any trace of infantry and artillery appeared, these being well hidden in the villages and behind the depressions in the ground until their time came for action. Of course such inquisitiveness on the part of the cavalry is not always without mishaps, as three squadrons of the Northern Army found out when they galloped up to the eminence close to the village of Winac, and suddenly found themselves confronted by eight squadrons of the enemy, who having taken the ditches on both sides of the chaussée, came down upon them. Pity that on taking the ditch, which was obscured by clouds of dirt, the second rank of one squadron went down, horses and men into the ditch. They seem to have forgotten the instruction which orders the rearmen to ring off the ground for 500 yards in advance. Nor was this the only cavalry affair, for towards the end of the day, in order to check the turning movements the Commander of the Northern Corps sent all his disposal cavalry forward to overlap the attack; but the commander on the opposite side was not behindhand, and again the cavalry of the Northern Corps found itself confronted by superior forces, and had to beat a retreat.

"As for the infantry, the acting by small bodies, companies and platoons, and even squads, has entirely superseded the acting with larger masses. It was this action by masses and the premature charges against the Prussians armed with breechloaders which caused such enormous and demoralizing losses. It was almost a regulation then to trust rather to the bayonet than to make the most of the rifle; now the Austrian infantry has in the Wincl rifle as good a weapon, probably, as any other for military purposes—that is, simple in its construction and true up to the practical range of 500 or 600 yards. More care is

taken that the men should become good marksmen, and the men have confidence in their weapons. Moreover, you could see that the men have taken to the new method of warfare, whereby the intelligence of every one singly is given more play. It is this which is now so important and which was very satisfactory, the men themselves, in most instances, showing an eye for the ground which might be made available for advance or defence. The work, not unlike stalking, seemed to be taken as sport, and more than once you saw men, seeing some sheltered spot, run forward of their own accord to take it up. You could not have a better means of judging of this than from my position, with the little market-place of Jenstein at my feet, which had to be taken. Of course the defenders were at a disadvantage, for they could not use the houses as so many positions; each party dodged the others at the corners of the streets, which was rather awkward at times, as one party could not see what was going on in the next street, or in the next yard, and finding suddenly that they were turned, had to run for it.

"In the employment of artillery, just the reverse has occurred to what has transpired in the infantry and cavalry. Instead of, as formerly, being dispersed, it is more massed, two and more batteries usually working together. This plan, however, seemed to be carried out almost too strictly, for more than once there would have been an opportunity for venturing forward with a few guns to support the infantry with shrapnel and grape, which seemed lost by the artillery remaining invariably at very long ranges. Poor artillerymen! they are at present under a cloud: just before the manoeuvres experiments were made with a new pattern steel gun, turned out from Krupp's manufactory, the shooting of which proved, for accuracy at 2000, 3000, and 5000 yards, to be superior to the present bronze gun in the proportion of 1400 to 300. 'Have our artillery been asleep?' is the cry. Not altogether; but they are too confident in the success which they achieved in 1866. For several years questions have been asked in the Delegations whether no change was intended, when all the world was discarding bronze for steel or muzzle loaders for breech loaders. The answer at first was that there was nothing better as yet, and lately that experiments were going on; and so there have been for the last two years. The Prussian 8 pounder was thought too heavy, so Krupp was commissioned to make a lighter one, but there was such a great recoil that it was not thought serviceable. The Artillery Committee took the matter in hand, and such astounding results were constructed by Krupp. In reality therefore, the merits of inventing the new gun belongs to the Austrian Artillery, the only fault being that it has taken its time about it. Well the cloud just now cast over the artillery will no doubt pass away, for a finer set of men and officers it would be difficult to find. The regiments recruited from Bohemia are reckoned among the best; owing probably to their methodical steadiness, ridiculed as slowness by others, they are excellent marksmen."

## FRENCH AUTUMN MANŒUVRES

We have information of the French manoeuvres from two of the camps in operation, namely, that of the 1st Corps D'Armée (General Clinchant) headquarters at Lillie, and that of the 7th Corps (Duc D'Aumale)

headquarters at Besancon. Relative to the first named corps a correspondent of the *How* says:

"The troops at Lens and in the villages round about are not under canvas, but are quartered on the inhabitants. I believe, however, that the division at Helfaut, in the neighborhood of St. Omar, is encamped. At all events, the soldiers of the regiments I saw marching from Lille to St. Omar carried each the regulation quarter tent which was found such an encumbrance during the late war, and which in the numerous rapid retreats was generally the first thing to be thrown away. An army, to be sure, does not start on a campaign with any clear idea of being defeated, and if everything goes well it may be very convenient for it to have tents in the proportion of one to every four men. In the best days of the French Army, however, tents were not carried. Like the Germans in 1870, the French soldiers either quartered themselves in the houses of their conquered enemies, or, when no house accommodation was to be had, bivouacked for a time in the open field. It may be owing to the fact that the Lens army is in cantonments, while the army of St. Omar is under tents, that the former is supposed to represent a hostile force while the latter plays the part of a French force sent to attack it. Strangely enough, the French force is to get the worst of it in every engagement, until at last it will be pursued to almost within cannon shot of St. Omar. This seems to me a mistake, and I am still in hopes that the St. Omar troops may turn out to be the invaders, and the troops at Lens the national army. It is difficult at first sight to understand how invaders would get to St. Omar, except from the most unlikely country in the world—from England. But the Germans were at Dieppe nearly four years ago; and they marched from Dieppe to attack Faidherbe's army near Amiens, as General Bellecour will march in a day or two from Helfaut, near St. Omar, to attack General Lecomte at Lens—or, rather, in the position General Lecomte means to take up in advance of Lens, somewhere near Bethune.

"The attacking force, composing the second division of the 1st Army Corps—consists of the 8th, 33rd, 73rd, 110th regiments of the Line, 1st battalion of Chasseurs, 5th and 19th Dragoons, 15th regiments of artillery, and a detachment of the 3rd Engineers. The force destined to receive the attack, composing the first division of the same corps, is made up of the 1st, 43rd, 84th and 127th regiments of the Line, 25th battalion of Chasseurs, 14th and 16th Dragoons, 27th regiment of artillery, and a detachment of the 3rd Engineers.

"It will be observed that there are no Zouaves in general Clinchant's corps; Zouaves in fact like Turcos, being absolutely abolished. The infantry regiments are all armed and dressed absolutely alike, with the exception of the battalions of Chasseurs—corresponding with 'schutzen' battalions of the German army—whose tunics are of a lighter blue than those of the line regiments. The Germans, by the way, have only one battalion of sharpshooters to each Army Corps, whereas the French have two—one to each division. As the French are adopting, as much as possible, the principle of uniformity in their army, it seems a pity that they should have made any distinction between chasseurs and infantry of the Line—that in short, they should have retained 'chasseurs' in their army at all. Formerly 'sharpshooters' carried rifles, and were supposed to be par-