

HOW THE EAGLES WERE CAPTURED AT WATERLOO.

The British cavalry accomplished what Sir Evelyn Wood describes as "One of the most brilliant successes ever achieved by horsemen over infantry." These two brigades—which did not number more than 2,000 swords—wrecked an entire infantry corps, disabled forty guns, overthrew a division of cuirassiers, took 3,000 prisoners, and captured two eagles. The moral effect of the charge was, perhaps, greater than even its material results. The French infantry never afterwards, throughout the battle, until the old Guard appeared upon the scene, moved forward with real confidence against the British position. Those "terrible horsemen" had stationed themselves upon their imagination. The story of how the eagles were captured is worth telling. Captain Clark Kennedy, of the Dragoons, took one. He was riding vehemently in the early stage of the charge, when he caught sight of the Cuirassier officer carrying the eagle with his covering men, trying to break through the *mêlée* and escape. "I gave the order to my men," he says, "Right shoulders forward; attack the colors." He himself overtook the officer, ran him through the body, and seized the eagle. He tried to break the eagle from the pole and push it inside his coat for security, but, failing, gave it to his corporal to carry to the rear. The other color was taken by Ewart, a sergeant of the Greys, a very fine swordsman. He overtook the officer carrying the colors, and, to quote his own story, "He and I had a hard contest for it. He made a thrust at my groin; I parried it off, and cut him down through the head. After this a lancer came at me. I threw the lance off my right side, and cut him through the chin and upwards through the teeth. Next a foot soldier fired at me and then charged me with his bayonet, which I also had the good luck to parry, and then I cut him down through the head. Thus ended the contest. As I was about to follow the regiment, the general said, 'My brave fellow, take that to the rear; you have done enough till you get quit of it.'