

MILITARY BALLADS.

VIII.

THE PRIVATE OF THE BUFFS.*

("Some Sihks, and a private of the Buffs, having remained behind with the grog-carts, fell into the hands of the Chinese. On the next day they were brought before the authorities and ordered to perform *Kotou*. The Sihks obeyed, but Moyses the English soldier declared he would not prostrate himself before any Chinaman alive, and was immediately knocked upon the head, and his body thrown upon a dunghill."—China correspondent of the *London Times*.)

Last night, among his fellow roughs,
He jested, quaffed, and swore ;
A drunken private of the Buffs,
Who never looked before.
To-day, beneath the foeman's frown,
He stands in Elgin's place,
Ambassador from Britain's crown,
And type of all her race.

Poor, reckless, rude, low-born, untaught,
Bewildered, and alone ;
A heart, with English instinct fraught,
He yet can tell his own.
Ay, tear his body limb from limb ;
Bring cord, or axe, or flame ;
He only knows that not through him
Shall England come to shame.

Far Kentish hop-fields round him seemed,
Like dreams, to come and go ;
Bright leagues of cherry-blossom gleamed,
One sheet of living snow ;
The smoke above his father's door
In gray soft eddyings hung ;
Must he then watch it rise no more,
Doomed by himself so young ?

Yes, honour calls !—with strength like steel
He puts the vision by ;
Let dusky Indians whine and kneel,
An English lad must die.
And thus, with eyes that would not shrink,
With knee to man unbent,
Unflinching on its dreadful brink,
To his red grave he went.

Vain mightiest fleets of iron framed,
Vain those all-shattering guns,
Unless proud England keep untamed
The strong heart of her sons ;
So let his name through Europe ring—
A man of mean estate,
Who died, as firm as Sparta's king,
Because his soul was great.

SIR FRANCIS HASTINGS DOYLE.

*"The Buffs" are the East Kent regiment, formerly the 3rd Foot. A corps ranking high in the honour list of the British Army.

the grooves can be obtained by enlarging the bullet at the middle and the base cup drops off within a short distance of leaving the muzzle, and, like the cartridge case, can be used several times. The whole of the bullet has a hard metallic covering. As the result of comparative experiment, Prof. Hebler calculates the "goodness" of the 5 m m. rifle, firing the most favorable form of bullet, at 4,020, and classes the value of the results of employing the types of bullets as follows: German 1888 pattern bullet, 474; improved ogival headed type, 784; improved double ogival ended type, 1,347; or, if fired from a 5 m m. rifle, ordinary pattern bullet, 1,429; improved ogival headed type, 2,522; improved double ogival ended type, 4,020. The penetration of the improved double ogival ended bullet into white deal at 1,000 and 2,500 metres is respectively about three times and five times greater than that of the ordinary bullet at those ranges.

A writer in the *Army and Navy Gazette*, London, tells some curious stories of the loss of arms in India, where every year gangs of professional thieves cross the border for the main object of stealing arms. He says: "There are many tales of their sharpness. Our regiment on the march used always to chain its arms round the tent pole. The wily border thief on the warpath thought this most convenient, as he simply pulled down the tent pole, and while the men were struggling under the canvas he quietly made off with the weapons conveniently chained together. A solitary old man driving an eckha past the guard tent upset it in the road, and came and asked assistance from the sergeant, who good-naturedly told a couple of men to help him. Of course, the sentry looked on with the others. When they re-entered the tent there was not a weapon left. When we were on the march we used to dig a trench, bury the arms, which were first all inspected and counted by an officer of each tent, inside the tent, and the men slept on the top of them. I may also add that if the men do catch a thief he has a pretty rough time of it."

Surgeon Major-General Bardenleten, the well known German Army Surgeon, has, at the request of Emperor William, examined the Lebel rifle, and reports that the wounds inflicted by the projectile of the French rifle are exceptionally severe, on account both of their form and of the injuries caused to the bones, and that the dressings hitherto employed by army surgeons do not suffice for the gravity of the wounds.

A telegram from Simla states that 33,000 magazine rifles and 23,000,000 cartridges have arrived. All the British infantry in the Punjab and Beloochistan will be re-armed in a few weeks. Sufficient batteries of 12-pounder guns have been received to insure all the artillery required, in case of war, taking the field with breechloading artillery.

The conscription for the present year in the Russian army has resulted in the production of 904,500 men of the requisite age and qualifications, besides 89,692 who had been left in from former years, making a total of 994,258. Of this number 51,248 are Jews. It is estimated that the number of Jewish recruits alone is over 50,000 per annum.

The usual parade to celebrate the proclamation of the Empress of India, was held at Calcutta on Jan. 2, in the presence of the Viceroy, the Commander-in-Chief, the Naval Commander-in-Chief, a large number of high officials and distinguished visitors, and an enormous crowd of spectators. General Lance commanded the troops, numbering about 5,000 of all arms. The review presented two features which have been seldom seen in Calcutta—namely, the presence of a naval brigade of about 500 blue-jackets and marines from the *Boadicea*, *Marathon*, *Brisk*, and *Lapwing*, which were lying in port; and, secondly, a body of military cyclists, who followed the march past. The whole spectacle was very effective. Similar parades were held at all military stations throughout India.

Foreign News.

A writer in the *Allgemeine Schweizerische Militar Zeitung*, argues that much of the resistance offered by the atmosphere can be overcome by giving the rear of the bullet as long an ogival as possible, providing it with a base cap of some light but tough material, such as *papier-mache* or rubber, to insure its leaving the barrel truly. A bearing surface to take