

It was obvious that the chains and buckles of the harness had not only been polished, but burnished; and they sparkled with as much brilliancy as if the train had been quartered in barracks, instead of for the most part in hogs. The two Line regiments of the first brigade—the 9th and 11th passed the saluting point very well, the dressing of the double companies being maintained with exact precision. The 1st Devonshire Militia and the Lower Hamlets Militia followed, and the next moment a loud and continued cheer greeted the passing by of the two Highland regiments, and right well both deserved it. Probably the 42nd is the most magnificent Line regiment in our service, and men who to day saw the long, well defined wall of stalwart forms, broad chests bare knees, and flowing tartans, could not feel surprised at General Blumenthal's expression of wonder that all our infantry were not in physiquo and costume like the Black Watch. The govt of the 23rd Fusiliers met with its wonted ovation, which was deservedly prolonged in recognition of the fine regiment of which he formed so important a member. A correspondent says:—"There may be an imputation in praising individual regiments especially where all did so well; but truth enforces the statement that no infantry on the ground to day marched past so well as the brigade of Marines, who thus proved that they possessed yet another soldierly attribute in addition to those to which I have already paid a tribute. The three battalions of Volunteers did very fairly, and the difference in their favour in the matter of *physique* in comparison with some of the Line regiments was very marked. That the four batteries of field artillery maintained the reputation of their arm of the Service goes without saying; and Bogie's troop of Horse Artillery was at least on a par with its comrade in the first Division. The Greys went past splendidly at walk, respectably at a trot, and fell a good deal to pieces in the canter. In general excellence at all three paces not even the Carabineers, good as they were, could vie with the 13th Hussars. It was to be noticed that, as the case last year, the Army Service Corps was wholly unrepresented in the march past. It is one of the best traits of the British soldier that, notwithstanding all the work that it entails, he is proud to participate in a march, and wounded in his amour *propre* if debarred. The sentiment has in it a flavour of the chivalric, and deserves to be cherished, not repressed, more especially since its gratification costs nothing. A powerful argument in these days of economy. No soldiers on these manœuvres bear so much of the heat and burden of the day as the Army Service Corps, working early and late scarcely having the cogitance of assured rest, and performing certainly the most important function in the internal economy of the force. Doing all this with a steady zeal which must have commanded the admiration of all acquainted with the subject, they are reasonably entitled to what gratification the participation in the march past could have afforded them. If they are to be debarred from the privileges of soldiers, why give them arms and uniforms? Let them be clothed in moleskin and billycocks, and told for once and all that they are not soldiers, but hewers of wood and drawers of water. And while commenting on this matter, it must also be asked, in accordance with what regulation is the controller of the Army Corps not in his place on the staff of the Major General commanding that Army Corps? Of that staff is not easy to imagine a more respon-

sible and important member than the officer entrusted with making provision for supplies and transport of all kinds, while it is easy to imagine an inspecting officer on parade asking a question on some subject connected with them—which the controller alone can answer—and, while he does ride in his proper place with the general, must remain unanswered. There can be no greater mistake than any effort on the part of general officers holding important commands to lessen the consideration and enfeeble the statues of their Control subchiefs by failing to accord to them all the privileges, whether nominal or substantial, in which the other officers of the staff participate."

Still more effective than the march past of the infantry in double companies was the march in line and quarter columns by brigades, in which the brigade of Marines and General Herbert's brigade showed to the most advantage. When the cavalry and Horse Artillery had trotted and cantered past; the latter evolution spoiled, in fact by the observed rocking horse pace enforced by recent regulations, the whole force reformed line near the original alignment, the infantry composing the first line, with the Horse Artillery on the right, and the Field Artillery on the left, the cavalry forming a second line in the rear of the first. In this formation, the whole advanced in review order with the bands playing, and officers and colours having taken post. Halting after a short advance, the troops presented arms, the colours were drooped and the bands played the national anthem; and, with this formality, executed with admirable precision, the modified pageant which concluded the unfortunate manœuvres came to a close.

The princes immediately rode off the field and the dispersion of the troops at once commenced. A squadron of the Greys made straight for Okehampton by road march. The 93rd Highlanders marched direct to Bickleigh Station, with a night journey to Aldershot in prospect. To day no portion of the late Army Corps should be found on Roborough Down, except a few Engineers, a detachment of the Army Service Corps, and a divisional hospital.

AUTUMN CAMPS.

An over-ingenious suggestion has been made to account for the *nonchalance* of the War Office during the severe criticisms recently passed on the comparative failure on Dartmoor, if we may not, as yet, reckon Cannaok Chase in the same category. It is this, that no more camps will be held, and that the disgust of army officers will be pleaded as an excuse for kotowing to the economical party which hails from Manchester. Ministers will say to the Army, "We have done our best, but we cannot contend against repeated discouragements. We accept your dislike of the inconveniences of camping out, and your impressions of the little they are likely to teach. We suspend them, for the present, at any rate." On the other hand, they will say to Peace-Society men, to Manchester politicians, to those who never look upon a soldier without estimating what he might earn in a factory or a warehouse—"See, we have reduced our expenditure. The camps pleased the martially inclined for a time, and we were bound to give them some gratification. If they have done no other good, we are satisfied. But they have had no value in proportion to their cost. Accept the assurance of our highest esteem, &c." These suggestions are very clever, we think, to pass the bar

of common sense. They savour too much of party cunning to satisfy those who are only "for the State," and an efficient public service, in every order and capacity. There is no indifference that we know of at the War Office, and certainly no doubling chicken-heartedness. Bad weather, an indifferent site, conflicting orders, and the like, may have produced failure, in one instance, regarded from the higher point of view; but all cannot have been thrown away because manœuvring has been checked, brilliant battles have been rare, and the whole force assembled has been small. The autumn camp is more a means of instruction for officers than men, and every mistake they have made, every success they have achieved, will bear valuable fruit. To abandon what is a good design because it was spoiled, in one or two instances, mainly by elements over which the War Office has no control, would be the extreme height of folly and pusillanimity. It would betray such a weakness at headquarters as would speedily affect the *morale* of the Army. On the other hand, to make a political virtue of what would be a real abandonment of duty, would be a sad evidence of moral decay, and of the lapse of that highspirited patriotism which ought to inspire every one who has in charge the destinies of the Army. We shall accordingly, resolutely refuse to believe in the prevailing rumours and suggestions until evidence, good and substantial, renders us believe an impossibility. All our summers and autumns are not miniature deluges, and present discouragements will vanish when we have recovered a little from the depressing influences of fog and failure.

But there is another suggestion that merits more serious attention. It is intimated that whilst the autumn manœuvres are not to be abandoned, they are hereafter to be conducted on the site of permanent camps, Aldershot being one, and some hereafter to be established camp in the north of England being the other. Obviously, arrangements of this kind have certain advantages. The sites may always be relied upon, and may possibly be dry. Less friction may be expected between the combatant and non-combatant branches of the Service. The Engineers will have less preparatory work to do. But when we have said thus much, we have exhausted all that can be urged in favour of permanent camps as centres of divisional exercise. The novelty of camping on fresh ground will be lost, and the lessons derived from a study of the military advantages of a position will be impossible to officers already familiar, by experience, with the roads and the geography of the locality. The zest of manœuvring will be gone. The distance over which intending troops will have to be carried will be very considerable, and the local feeling, so desirable where the Army is to be retained in a high state of discipline and efficiency, will be quietly evaporated, without any good substitute being found for it. Upon this point let us hear what a distinguished German critic has to say—"Consideration of expense may induce our rulers to confine such manœuvres to certain localities, and may render the formation of camps necessary. But even if such should be the case, this measure would not be subject to those objections which one often hears urged against it, always supposing the camps to be used only for a short time, and by one and the same body of troops. But we hope, in the interests of a healthy soldier-like life, that our Army may be spared the trial of having its greater manœuvres, especially those of the Division