

TREASURES.

Friendship is a priceless treasure—
Use it well!
Joy 'twill give you without measure;
Slight it not, and never blindly
Use it cordily or unkindly—
Use it well.

Honor is a precious jewel—
Use it well!
It is never cold or cruel;
It is warm, and kind, and cheering,
Noble, steadfast and enduring,
Use it well.

Truth's treasure great and glorious,
Use it well!
It will make him work victorious;
Better for its riches olden,
Than the wealth that's merely golden—
Use it well.

Courage is a mighty treasure—
Use it well!
It will give you strength and pleasure—
It will drive away all the sadness—
By the conquering power of gladness—
Use it well.

Hope's gem with light undying—
Use it well!
While the hours are swiftly flying
Let its talismanic beauty
Lead you on through paths of duty—
Use it well.

Moment's are life's richest treasure—
Use it well!
They will bring eternal pleasures
If we never treat them lightly,
But improve them ever rightly—
Use them well.

The Mobilization of the Artillery.

Sir.—In the *Broad Arrow* of 11th December last, there appeared perhaps, the most interesting letter—at all events to all those who have the efficiency and completeness of our artillery service really at heart—that has ever been printed in its columns. This letter was headed "The Dearth of Artillery," a modest title, looking at the important, indeed, I may say, vital questions, "Swingletree" has opened up. With a view to a more thorough ventilation, and also to a better comprehension of the subject, I venture to trouble you with some questions, a few of which I have endeavored to answer, but very imperfectly. However, every officer in the regiment (and we have, according to latest published list, 1463, of which 543 are regimental field officers of all grades, with 915 captains and lieutenants, on full pay) will be able to consider these questions for himself, and all I ask of each one is, to divest his mind of all "partiality, favour, or affection," and entirely to drop the Conservative element in its broadest sense, which has hitherto been dangerously prevalent throughout the regiment, for what reason it is needless here to say. I have, of course, included in the above figures, only combatant officers, as they alone, in a proper sense, belong to the regiment.

1.—Is Horse Artillery a necessity now-a-days?

I feel I have not only a delicate, but difficult task before me, when trying to answer this question. I will, however, merely preface my reply by saying that I have served with every branch of the regiment in many lands, and have gone through seven of its grades of rank. I am not, however, by any means "an old logic," I am, moreover, free from prejudice, and I think the Horse Artillery the finest and most dashing Service in the world, and it has generally in its ranks the pick of our officers, men and horses. Can I say more to prove my sincerity as to my admiration of and pride in it? The infantry rifle of the present day is a weapon very perfect of its kind, and I am one of those who believe that we have not

nearly exhausted our resources towards obtaining a much more perfect rifle. The rifle has thus become one of the principal causes why Horse Artillery is not now of the same importance as it used to be, and as the rifle continues to improve in length of range, and accuracy of fire in skilled hands, so will the necessity for maintaining Horse Artillery become of less importance. Sir Garnet Wolsey has written, "It is the infantry fire which is more to be dreaded most," so, as a general rule, it is upon it that artillery fire should be brought to bear most. Horse artillery cannot be employed with such certainty of sundering infantry fire as field artillery, nor with such safety to its existence, nor is its rapidity of movement (its great distinctive feature) as necessary now, as it used to be in the good old times of "Queen Bess," and "crossed bayonets." Field artillery batteries, even armed with 16-pounders, and efficiently horsed, answer all purposes of mobility, and rapid manœuvring, and susceptible of great improvement in these respects when the money now swallowed up in maintaining horse artillery separately has been devoted to the full development of a properly organized field artillery. Were it not for a certain amount of jealousy, and perhaps quite a proper pride, which exists at present in the regiment, all artillery officers would doubtless agree on this point; at any rate, the most experienced amongst us. Of course those handsome and smart young officers who are annually selected for the horse artillery, will find great difficulty in thinking, so, but eventually many of them may live to change their youthful opinions, as many of the middle aged officers have done. It is impossible to enter more minutely upon this question in a simple letter to the papers, it is sufficient to introduce the question for general consideration.

2. Is garrison artillery necessary, as a distinct branch, nowadays? This question, fortunately, presents no difficulties in handling, as few officers will find their feelings, or their regimental pride, much hurt by the suppression of garrison artillery, which a smart horse artillery youngster, full of life and go-at-my-elbow, says is only a refuge for the blind, the lame, and the lazy. It is to be hoped there are really none of this kind on the Active List, and that this is only a healthy example of exuberant youthful chaff on the part of the smart horse artillery sub. No more ridiculous sight can ever be presented to a soldier's eye than garrison gunners brigaded as a regiment of infantry. The most ludicrous feature of this system has been shown up by "Swingletree," when he represents heavy-bodied garrison gunners skirmishing, great tall, stout men, finding immense difficulty in obtaining sufficient cover, and where weapons are, to all intents and purposes, useless. The only purpose for which garrison artillery ought to be maintained, is with a view to its employment for short periods at a time, in such fortresses as Gibraltar, Malta, Aden, Bermuda, &c., and on the coasts of Great Britain and Ireland. There is no reason whatever that these garrison gunners should not also be field artillery gunners; really and for all practical purposes they are so (ask Lord Cardwell and 1st Brigade), and were reliefs carried out judiciously, there could be no possible objection or difficulty in abolishing garrison artillery as a distinct branch of the regiment, and thus greatly increasing the capabilities of expanding the most important branch of the regiment—viz., the field artillery. Militia and volunteer artillery, supplemented by sailors, marine and land artillerymen of the regular

Services, properly officered, and by reserve men of all classes, when come-at-able, in Great Britain and Ireland especially, would do all that is required from garrison artillery, and in war time they would relieve as many garrison gunners as would nearly double our present field artillery in the United Kingdom.

3. Is not a thoroughly efficient and sufficiently mobile field artillery all that is required at the present day?

Without attempting to lay down arbitrarily what number of batteries is absolutely necessary for our Service, my object is simply to make our system (of field artillery, the really important branch) as telescopic, or capable of expansion, as possible. We must therefore first considerably increase our establishment of drivers—no great difficulty, as judicious use of garrison artillery does not necessitate any increase in peace time to our establishment of gunners. All officers who have ever driven in a team of six horses, will know how difficult it is to drive so as to work together, and get the most out of the team without unduly exerting some one of the six animals, more especially over rough ground. Let those who doubt me drive for three days a week for six months, not on Woolwich Common nor on the Sussex Downs, but over a nasty country, intersected by irritating and vicious looking dry water channels, with some patches of ground covered with large loose stones thrown in at uncertain intervals to vary the monotony: they will then find out what are the indispensable requirements of a well trained artillery driver with our necessary system of elastic draught. We must also increase, not, however, largely, our number of horses: it will not answer now-a-days to trust entirely to obtaining horses at a few days' notice, even partially trained ones. The next, but perhaps most important step with regard to all Field Artillery, is the entire abolition of our present pattern wagon. It is quite a sufficient evil to have our guns horsed as they have to be horsed, with three pairs of horses, one pair in front of another, without unnecessarily continuing the evil by retaining such a clumsy contrivance as this wagon. A few of its most hideous deformities tending to disastrous results I propose to shew up now, even as I have done for some years past, since 1857 in fact. When I look back calmly on the matter, the fires of youth no longer burning fiercely, I can hardly believe that in the new drill book the manœuvres are still laid down to be performed with these awfully clumsy inventions dodging about after the guns, adding to the dust, noise, and greater frequency of accidents, and consequently to the great difficulty of properly drilling and handling any large number of guns, yet that this custom is still to be retained, is a fact. Markers, one great absurdity, have been discontinued as such, and in their places we have "coverers;" but I presume the compilers of our "Manual of Field Artillery Exercises" (the book is of course an improvement on the old one) could not entirely divest themselves of our great principle of Conservatism, and at once face the matter boldly, abolishing these monstrous wagons from the drill book at any rate—as a beginning. Stay! I hear a voice in the crowd lustily crying out, "What! abolish wagons!! how then are the men and spare stores to be carried?" I hope to show my "esteemed friend" with the strong voice, that there need be no great difficulty with regard to this question. Now, let me from Captain Kern's "Treatise on Military Carriages, &c.," state some facts regarding