



# The Volunteer Review

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For "THE REVIEW."  
CHRISTMAS EVE.  
BY MARY A. M'IVER.

The lights from cottage windows fall  
Athwart the snowy hollows,—  
And, hark! was that a distant call  
Which startled Echo follows?  
There is no home for many a mile  
Save this, the dark wood's centre,  
No warmth, no cheering word or smile,  
To bid a stranger enter.

To-night we gather round the blaze  
Of pine-logs redly burning,  
And talk of all the vanished days  
For which is no returning,  
But hark! amidst our loudest mirth,  
Our merriest peals of laughter,  
That phantom cry comes to our hearth,  
The shrieking Echo after.

Is it the voice of some lost dream  
From years long dead arisen;  
Some hope that like a living stream  
Has forced its winter prison;  
Some haunting mem'ry of the past,  
From Childhood's time descended,  
Which now comes to us for the last,  
And is forever ended?—

Or is it but the faint refrain  
Of some old song or sorrow,  
Which breaks in on the glad strain  
With which we hail the morrow?  
Whate'er it be, we heed it not,  
That ancient voice of warning,  
We would not that a gloomy thought  
Should darken Christmas morning.

### CRIMEAN COMMANDERS

The following sketches of four celebrated Commanders in the Crimea are taken from Kinglake's "Invasion of the Crimea;" and are brilliant specimens of that "pen photographing" which has made this author famous among modern historians:—

LORD LUCAN.

From the qualities observed in this general officer at the time of his appointment, it might have been difficult perhaps for a Minister to infer the peculiar tendency which developed itself in the field; but what happened was—that, partly from the exceeding vigour of his intellect, partly from a natural combative, antagonistic temper, and partly, perhaps, from the circumstances of his having been long accustomed to rural and provincial sway, Lord Lucan in the Crimea disclosed a habit of mind which was calculated to endanger his efficiency as a subordinate commander. He suffered himself to become an inveterate critic—an inveterate critic of the orders he

received from head-quarters. Plainly, that was a state of mind which might grievously impair a man's powers of action in the field, not only by chilling him with the wretched sensation of disapproving what he had to do, but also by confusing him in his endeavours to put right interpretations upon the orders he received. It was never from dullness or sloth, but rather through a mis-aiming cleverness, that Lord Lucan used to fall into error. \* \* \* \* Besides being wholly unarmed with the authority which is conferred by former services in the field, he had so yielded to his unfortunate habit of adverse criticism as to be more often fretted than animated by the orders which came down from head-quarters; and, on the other hand, he had under him a general officer commanding one of his brigades who was rather a busy antagonist than a zealous and devoted lieutenant.

LORD CARDIGAN.

Lord Cardigan when appointed to this command was about 57 years old, and had never seen war service. From his early days he had eagerly longed for the profession of arms, and although prevented by his father's objections from entering the army at the usual period of life, he afterwards—that is, at about 27 years of age—was made a cornet in a cavalry regiment. He pursued his profession with diligence, absenting himself much from the House of Commons (of which he was at that time a member) for the purpose of doing orderly duty as a subaltern in the 8th Hussars. Aided partly by fortune, but partly by the Duke of York and the operation of the purchase system, he rose very quickly in the service, and at the end of about seven years from the period of his entering the army he was a Lieutenant-Colonel. \* \* \* \* His mind, though singularly barren and wanting in dimensions was not without force; and he had the valuable quality of persistency. He had been so constituted by nature, or so formed by the watchful care which is sometimes bestowed upon an only son, as to have a habit of attending to the desires and interests of self with a curious exactitude. The tendency, of course, was one which he shared with nearly all living creatures; and it was only from the extraordinary proportions in which the attribute existed, and from the absence of any attempt to mark the propensity, that it formed a distinctive peculiarity. When engaged in the task of self-assertion or self-advocacy, he adhered to the subject with the most curious rigour, never going the least bit astray from it, and separating from it all that concerned the rest of creation as matter altogether irrelevant and uninteresting. Others before him may

have secretly concentrated upon self an equal amount of attention; but in Lord Cardigan there was such an entire absence of guile, that exactly as he was so he showed himself to the world. Of all false pretences contrived for the purpose of feigning an interest in others he was innocent as a horse. Amongst his good qualities was love of order; but this with him was in such morbid excess that it constituted a really dangerous foible, involving him from time to time in mischief. One of his quarrels was founded upon the color of a bottle; another upon the size of a teacup. In each case the grievance was want of uniformity. To this formulated mind the distinction between lawful and right was imperceptible. A thousand times over it might be suggested to him that he ought not to have been sleeping on board his yacht—a yacht with a French cook on board—when not only all the officers and men under him, but also his divisional chief, were cheerfully bearing the hardships and privations of camp life; but a thousand times over he would answer that he indulged himself thus with the permission of Lord Raglan; and the lawfulness of the practice being thus established, he never seemed to understand that there could remain any question of propriety, or taste, or right feeling. With attributes of this kind he was plainly more fitted to obey than command. Having no personal ascendancy, and no habitual consideration for the feelings of others, he was not, of course, at all qualified to exert easy rule over English gentlemen, and his idea of the way to command was to keep on commanding. There surely was cruelty in the idea of placing a human being under the military control of an officer at once so arbitrary and so narrow; but the notion of such a man having been able to purchase for himself a right to hold Englishmen in military subjection is to my mind revolting. Lord Cardigan incurred a series of quarrels, and was removed from the command of his regiment; but afterwards, by the special desire of the Duke of Wellington, he was restored to active service.

ADMIRAL KORNILOFF.

Vice-Admiral Korniloff, for a period of some five years, had had the main direction of affairs in the Black Sea fleet; and it was during that time that he had been able to engender the zeal, the trustful affection, which now, in the hour of a great disaster, brought round him a band of undaunted seamen, resolved to stand by his side in the void which the army had left. He was destined to be cut off when the period of his sway over events had lasted scarce twenty-six days; but this space included a