

present a wreath to His Majesty. The Emperor then repaired to the castle as guest of the Grand Duke, whilst apartments were fitted up for the Crown Prince of Naueim. Notwithstanding the bad weather, the different unions of the town, and many other civilians serenaded the Emperor, who returned them his thanks of this proof of attachment through the mayor of the town. On the morning of the 12th instant, at nine o'clock, a cannon was fired as a signal that His Majesty had arrived on the ground where the manoeuvres were to be held. The Kaiser was mounted on his noble charger, and followed by a suite of princely personages and distinguished military men, among whom were the Crown Prince of Germany, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Edinburgh, and the heir apparent to the Grand Duchy of Weimar. The enemy was supposed to have lodged himself in the chain of hills on one side, a commanding place for his artillery. The troops advanced against him from the south to protect Friedberg. The fight began with a tremendous cannonade. Then the riflemen appeared on the crest of the hills, followed at some distance by battalions in close marching order, whilst the enemy was harassed from the south-west by the cavalry. In a long semicircle the forces advanced on the enemy's position, which was taken after a long resistance. The enemy was then supposed to have retired to the next chain of hills, where the energetic resistance was continued, till at last a more concentrated fight ensued, and was brought to a close by the infantry and cavalry. Although the troops left their garrisons at the end of last month and bivouacked several days in very bad weather, their appearance and movements were fresh and vigorous. The Emperor and Crown Prince, followed by their suites were to be seen on all parts of the ground during the manoeuvres. Thousands of civilians had flocked there, not only from the province of Upper Hesse, but from Frankfurt, Wiesbaden, and Hamburg, to witness the animating and picturesque sight. The Grand Duke of Hesse, drove in a carriage accompanied by the Princess Alice, who had arrived from Darmstadt on the same morning. At the close of the manoeuvres the three divisions of the army corps defiled past the Emperor. In the morning it had been very stormy, and occasional showers fell, but just as the march past began a tremendous thunderstorm broke and drove away the greater part of the spectators. The aged monarch, however, did not move, but remained on the spot till the whole 25,000 men had marched past. The Emperor then returned with the Grand Duke to the castle, where the latter entertained his distinguished guests at dinner. In the evening the weather had improved so much that the intended illumination of the town could be carried out. The Crown Prince left on the same evening for Cassel, but the Emperor remained till the next morning, when he departed for Hanover. His Majesty was accompanied to the railway station by the Grand Duke. At the station the Prince of Hesse, a number, of officers, and the corporation were assembled to bid farewell to the Emperor. Although the visit of His Majesty was exclusively for military purposes, it was a good opportunity for the population of Friedberg and the surrounding country to show their attachment to the monarch, and they did not fail to do so. Such hearty cheers as were given when the Emperor left Friedberg have seldom been heard; indeed signs of attachment and devotion to His Majesty and the Crown Prince were mani-

festated on all sides. The Grand Duke ordered the principal street of Friedberg, which had till then been named Ludwig's Street, to be rechristened "the Emperor's Street." On the morning of the 14th inst., the troops marched towards the south, where the manoeuvres were continued up to the 16th instant. The brilliant military spectacle is now over, and the accustomed quiet and peace reigns as before, but the day which the founder of the German Empire passed within the walls of Friedberg will be long remembered by the inhabitants.

AUSTRIAN AUTUMN MANOEUVRES.

The manoeuvres of the Austrian Army in the vicinity Prague, on the Elbe and the Lower Iser, have attracted special attention on account of the visit of the Emperor of Austria. The Archduke Albrecht is Commander-in-Chief. The supposition on which the operations are based is, that an enemy coming from the north is advancing from Iser towards Kolin and Pardubitz to the south east, having detached at the same time two divisions to take Prague, which form the hostile corps during the first three days of the manoeuvres. The commander of the opposing army detaches three divisions, the South corps from Prague, to operate on the flank of the Northern army on the Iser. They force it on the first day to recross the Elbe, on the second they themselves cross the river on pontoon bridges, and establish themselves firmly on the other bank, the North army retires to the strong position of Hawanetz, which the South army forces on the next day, forcing its adversary to recross the Iser. Then, according to the supposition, the Northern Army is reinforced by a division while the Southern army is weakened by detaching one to Helmik; that is, one of the divisions from the Southern Army goes over to the Northern Army, which is thus in a position to resume the offensive again on the fourth day, which concludes the manoeuvres. In order to afford an opportunity to several general officers to show their skill, after the third day the command is changed in both armies, two other generals of division taking charge of the armies. The *New Free Presse* says this is the first great muster of Austrian troops since the reorganization of the army and that the Emperor had gone to Bohemia to form an opinion as to the results of the new system, which has now been six years in operation. During all these years the largest concentration hitherto has been in divisions.

We are indebted for the following interesting particulars of the operations to the correspondence of the *Times*. The number of men in the field was, all told, about 30,000:—"No better ground have been chosen for the operations than the country where the rivers Elbe and Iser meet at right angles, for you find there almost every kind of ground on which war operations can occur. You have on the left banks of the Elbe, towards Prague, the starting point of one, the Southern Corps d'Armee, an open undulating plateau with scarcely any wood except the rows of trees lining the roads, but intersected by ravines often steep, and valleys and villages with substantial stone buildings lying not far from each other, and affording good positions for defence. Then there is the Elbe, a sluggish stream, scarcely sixty or seventy yards wide, fordable indeed in some places for cavalry, at least at this time of year, when the waters are usually low, but offering every variety of river defence in its meandering course;

above, Brandeis heights dominate the town and Alt Bunzlau opposite, and further down a gradual slope down the meadows, among which the river runs. On the opposite bank are clusters of wood and hillocks rising up to steep heights, and beyond to the north-east are some formidable positions. Then there is the Iser line, with wooded broken ground on both sides. Thus, there is plenty of opportunity for the commanders on both sides to show their skill in making the most of every sort of ground. Indeed many commanders have done so in earnest before now, for the line of the Elbe and Iser has and must always play a conspicuous part in the defence of Bohemia against an attack coming from the north. It was so repeatedly in the Thirty Years' and Seven Years' War, and it would have been probably so in 1866 had not the Prussians been beforehand, and by their rapid victories decided the campaign before getting to the Elbe line.

As the programme prescribed, and as could not well be otherwise from the disproportion of the forces, and even more so from the nature of the manoeuvring ground, the first day belonged to the Southern Corps, commanded by General Philippovich. The distance from Prague to the Elbe at Brandeis is about fifteen English miles over which a broad *chussage* runs in an almost straight line to the north-east. This circumstance alone was a great drawback to the Northern Army, which thus had its line of retreat on its left if it attempted to make any stand more forward, where the ravines of Jenstein and Podolanka and the rising ground above them offered the best defensive position. The commander of the Southern Corps did not fail to take advantage of it; for while he attacked the position with two of his divisions, of equal strength to that of the whole of the opposing army, he sent his third towards the left flank of his adversary, which left the latter no chance but to make good his retreat. But, although well knowing his fate, General Westphalen had made his dispositions to retard it as long as possible. There you could see massed behind his fighting position, large bodies of infantry, and a strong reserve of artillery, which he had at hand to oppose the turning movement of his adversary, and check it until he had time to withdraw the bulk of his troops from their exposed position. But although as a strategical operation it was a foregone conclusion, the day offered not a few interesting tactical details, especially if you had so excellent a position as I happened to have on the top of the ruined tower of Jenstein, which overlooks the country all round, while, being in the heart of the defensive position, you could see the gradual bringing up and deployment of the forces on both sides.

(To be Continued.)

Another serious disaster to British naval vessels is recorded. The Flying Squadron, under the command of Rear Admiral Bagnold, C.B., was making for the well known and thoroughly surveyed Bay of Palermo, when the flag ship the *Narcissus*, and the *Endymion* struck heavily. The damage sustained by the latter has not yet been ascertained, but the former knocked away about twenty seven feet of her false keel, and two large holes were made in her outer skin.

The French are about to make experiments with the Moncrieff system, now that it has been brought by the English to a tolerable state of perfection.