

THE DYING STREET ARAB.

I knows what you mean, I'm a-dyin'—
Well, I aint no worse nor the rest;
Taint thom as does nothin' but prayin',
I recon's as is the best.

I aint had no father nor mother,
A-tellin' me wrong from the right,
The streets aint the place—Is it parson?
For sayin' your prayers of a night!

I never knowed who was my father,
And mother she died long ago;
The folks here they brought me up somehow—
It aint much they've teach'd me I know,

Yet I thinks they'll be sorry and miss me.
When took right away from this here,
For sometimes I catches them slyly
A-wipla' away of a tear.

And they says as they hopes I'll get better,
I can't be no worse when I'm dead!
I aint had so jolly a time on't—
A-dyin' by inches for bread.

I've stood in them streets preclous often,
When the wet's been a-pourin' down,
And I aint had so much as a mouthful,
Nor never so much as a brown,

I've looked in them shops with the winders
Chokeful of what's tidy to eat,
And I've heard gents a-larkin' and talkin',
While I drops like a dorg at their feet!

But it's kind of you, sir, to sit by me,
I aint now afeerd of your face,
And I hopes, if it's true what you tell me,
We'll meet in that tother place.

I hopes as you'll come when it's over,
And talk to them here in the court;
They'll mind what you says, you're a parson—
There won't be no larkin' for sport.

You'll tell them as how I died happy,
And hopin' to see them agaln;
That I'm gone to that land where the weary
Is free from their trouble and pain.

Now, open that book as you give me—
I feel as it never tells lies—
And read me them words—you know Guv'nor—
As is good for a chap when he dies.

There give me your hand, sir, and thank'ee
For the good as you have done a poor lad;
Who knows, had they teach'd me some better,
I might'n have growed up so bad?

FRENCH OPINIONS ON ARTILLERY
FIELD ORGANISATION.

In the autumn of the year 1871, certain questions relative to Artillery organisation were proposed by the French War Department for the consideration of the officers of that arm. Despite of the intervention of many untoward circumstances, a considerable number of replies were subsequently received—including one from a general officer, thirty-one from superior officers, thirty-three from captains, and eleven from subalterns. All these answers were transmitted by the Minister of War for the consideration of the Artillery Committee. A *résumé* of the views entertained by the majority of the writers, and which appear to be supported by the strongest arguments, are given, as hereunder, in a recent number of the *Revue d'Artillerie*.

The problem to be considered was the most suitable proportion and composition of the artillery force for four land armies, each army to consist of three *corps d'armée* of infantry and one *corps d'armée* of cavalry.

Each *corps d'armée* of infantry to comprise three divisions of infantry and one division of cavalry.

Each *corps d'armée* of cavalry to consist of two divisions of cavalry.

Each division of infantry to be composed of four regiments of infantry of 2500 men each, and one battalion of Chasseurs of 900 men.

Each division of cavalry to be composed of four regiments of 800 horses (a five

squadrons) each.

1. COMPOSITION OF THE ARTILLERY FORCE FOR
A DIVISION OF INFANTRY.

Number of Batteries to an Infantry Division—According to official programme, each division of infantry was to have four batteries of six-pieces each, i.e., twenty-four guns. This proportion has been accepted by the majority of the respondents without discussion. Some officers, however, regard it as unnecessarily large. In their opinion three batteries, i.e., eighteen guns per division would be sufficient; the increase in the number of guns, which is universally admitted to be desirable, they would give to the reserves, which would play an important part in all serious encounters, when, following up a precise and well concerted plan of operations, they are brought into action at the right moment.

Mode of Loading best adapted for Field Service—The majority of writers are in favour of breech loading, the superiority of which is held to have been satisfactorily established during the late war.

Calibre—Batteries intended to accompany divisions of infantry, and to manoeuvre with them, should have pieces of uniform calibre throwing a projectile of about 4.5 kilogram me weight, with a heavy charge of powder. A piece of lower calibre would be deficient in power, especially in regard of shrapnel-fire, the importance of which tends steadily to increase. A piece of higher calibre, on the other hand, would certainly be more effective, but this advantage would be insufficient to counterbalance the inconveniences attendant upon its use. It would be necessary to increase the strength of gun detachments, and of the teams; to increase the proportion of ammunition, wagons, so as to insure a sufficient supply of ammunition to the divisional batteries; lastly, the batteries would become less mobile, less capable of accompanying the infantry at all times and all places, less certain of arriving on the field of action at the right moment.

Mitrailleuses—It is difficult to observe the effects produced by the mitrailleuse, and to regulate its fire with due rapidity. It would therefore appear that troops who are frequently called upon to change their positions in the course of an engagement would be unable to make effective use of a weapon of this description. When the artillery is provided with a proportion of mitrailleuses, it is best to place them in the reserves, where a definite line of action may readily be assigned to them. In this way the mitrailleuse will do excellent service, and at decisive moments will contribute powerfully to the support of an offensive movement, or to repel an attack. If, on the contrary, these pieces invariably accompany the divisional artillery, they will find themselves committed, as a necessary consequence, to contests at distances superior to their own effective range, and to which they must inevitably succumb.

Composition of the Divisional Batteries—To secure the requisite amount of mobility, it is necessary to have in the batteries a sufficiency only of guns and waggon to maintain the combat until the arrival of reinforcements, and to combine all the rest into a divisional park.

The composition of a battery should be as follows:—6 guns, 6 ammunition wagons, 2 store-waggon, 1 forge, and 1 spare carriage.

The ammunition-boxes should hold 30 rounds; so that each piece will be furnished with 120 rounds. The capacity of the store-

wagons of 1863 pattern is insufficient; it would be desirable to replace them by wagons of the reserve pattern.

Divisional Reserves—The formation of divisional reserves of ammunition, prescribed by the regulations of 1867, was a good measure, which, nevertheless, was not always attended, during the late war, with the advantageous results that might have been anticipated. The detachments of artillery train entrusted with the conduct of these reserves were too weak in their organisation, and more especially in their cadres. Some officers appear to think that the duty would be more efficiently performed if the ammunition-wagons were permanently attached to the regiments of infantry, who would furnish them with conductors and draught cattle, as regimental reserves, for whose control and safe-keeping the regiments would be responsible. Other officers—and these constitute the majority—reject this solution of the difficulty, which, say they, long experience has condemned, demonstrating the serious inconveniences entailed by the addition of a number of wheel-carriages to infantry battalions. They consider that in each division the batteries of artillery, reduced to the proportions above mentioned, should be followed at short distances by reserve wagons, which, with the wagons containing the divisional reserve of infantry ammunition, should form a divisional park, to be horsed by the train of artillery, and placed under the orders of an artillery officer. A company of artillery train should be attached to each division, or to each *corps d'armée*—in the latter case, it would be organised in three detachments, one for each division of the *corps d'armée*.

The artillery officer commanding the divisional park, should have at his disposal a suitable number of clerks and orderlies; he should conform his movements to those of the troops, keeping himself in immediate communication with the general command of his division, with the batteries of the division, and with the park of the army; and should direct the march of his wagons on such points as may be indicated to him.

At the commencement of an action, all battery carriages not actually required will join the divisional park.

Ordinary repairs to be performed in the divisional park by the artificers of batteries. Extraordinary repairs to be executed in the park of the *corps d'armée*.

Supply of Ammunition—The proportion of ammunition, prescribed by the regulations of 1867 for the infantry, has been found sufficient. The divisional park should carry thirty rounds of infantry-ammunition per man, i.e., 327,000 rounds per division, and have an extra wagon for each gun; the gun ammunition carried will therefore amount to 200 rounds.

Staff of the Artillery of an Infantry Division—The artillery staff for each infantry division should consist of:—One lieutenant or colonel, two *chefs d'escadron*, one for every two batteries, three adjoints, and a proportion of clerks and orderlies.

When the adjoints are not second-captains of batteries, they should be taken—like the clerks from the auxiliary army. Their duty will be to carry the orders of the commanding officer of the divisional artillery to the battery commanders.

Personal of Batteries—The cadres of battery organisation are sufficient. The war strength of the batteries should be completed in the following manner:—Each battery should have three lieutenants, one adjutant, and a *sous-chef* artificer: the number of