

## TO THE QUEEN.

O Loyal to the royal in thyself,  
 And loyal to thy land, as this to thee—  
 Bear witness, that rememberable day  
 Whon, pale as yet, and fever-worn, the Prince  
 Who scarce had pluck'd his bleeding life again  
 From halfway down the shadow of the grave,  
 Passed with thee thro' thy people and their love,  
 And London roll'd one tide of joy thro' all  
 Her trebled millions and long leagues of man  
 And welcome! witness, too, the silent cry—  
 Thy prayer of many a race and creed, and ellum—  
 Thunderless lightnings striking under sea  
 From sunset and sunrise of all thy realm,  
 And that true North, whose of we lately heard  
 A strain to shame us! "Keep you to yourselves,  
 So loyal is too costly! Friends, your love  
 Is but a burthen, loose the bond and go."  
 Is this the tone of empire? here the faith  
 That made us rulers? this, indeed, her voice  
 And meaning, whom the roar of Hougoumont  
 Left mightiest of all peoples under heav'n?  
 What shock has food her sluce, that she should  
 speak  
 So feebly? weather—weather hour by hour!  
 The voice of Brittain, or a sinking land,  
 Some third-rate Isle half-lost among her seas?  
 There rang her voice when the full city pealed  
 Thee and thy Prince! the loyal to their crown  
 Are loyal to their own far sons, who love  
 Our ocean-empire with her boundless homes  
 For ever-broadening England, and her throne  
 In our vast Orient, and our Isle, our Isle.  
 That knows not her own greatness; if she knows  
 And dreads it we are full'n—but thou, my Queen,  
 Nor for itself, but thro' thy living love  
 For one to whom I made it o'er his grave  
 Sacred, accept this old imperfect tale,  
 New old, and shadowing Sense at war with Soul,  
 Rather than that Gray King, whose name, a ghost,  
 Streams like a cloud, man-shaped, from moun-  
 tain peak  
 And cleaves to eath and Cromlech still, or him  
 Of Geoffrey's book, or him of Malher's, one  
 Touch by thy adulterous finger of a time  
 That hover'd between war and wantonness,  
 And crownings and dethronements; take withal  
 Thy poet's blessing, and his trust that Heaven  
 Will blow the tempest in the distance back,  
 From thine and ours; for some are scared who  
 mark  
 Or wisely or unwisely, signs of storm  
 Waverings of every vane with every wind,  
 And wordy trucklings to the transient hour  
 And fierce or careless looseners of the faith  
 And softness bleeding scorn of simple life,  
 Or cowardice, the child of lust for gold,  
 Or labor, with a groan and not a voice,  
 Or Art with poisonous honey stol'n from France,  
 And that which knows, but careful for itself,  
 And that which knows not, ruling that which  
 knows  
 To its own harm; the goal of this great world  
 Lies beyond sight; yet—if our slowly grown  
 And crowned Republic's crowning common sense,  
 That saved her many times not fall—their fears  
 Are morning shadows huger than the shapes  
 That cast them, not those gloomier which forego  
 The darkness of that battle in the West,  
 Where all of high and holy dies away.

## DRAGOONS; OR, MOUNTED RIFLEMEN.

An agitation has existed for some time as to the formation of a new designation of corps under the name of "Mounted Riflemen; or, Infantry on Horseback." The idea seems to be very unpalatable to cavalry soldiers. They seem not to be able to bear the idea of being in any way conformed with, or mixed up with, even in name, anything that moves on foot. Now, it is a pity that the tactical applications of a body of men and horses such as is desiderated, cannot be obtained without effecting the prejudices of our military conservatives. The Americans claim the invention of mounted infantry as among the many novelties they have introduced to the world, although it is well known, that at the Cape a body of mounted infantry did good service in the Caffre wars. It is a pity that every sort of objection should be raked up by cavalry officers, against this system, which prejudice can invent, while all the time, a large proportion of our cavalry are really and truly destined for the very work which is wanted. Our dragoons for instance, are simply musketeers, and a part of their duty is to fight on foot with their firearms. The same thing may be said of our regiments of carabineers, why then the prejudice, when the practice and the prin-

ciple have long been recognised in Service. Major Brackenbury recommends the use of "mounted riflemen" for artillery escorts, so as not to weaken cavalry regiments whose duties are more for riding down the enemy sword or lance in hand.

In a recent article the *Pall Mall Gazette* said:—"It will not be amiss just now, when the subject of mounted riflemen has been once more brought into prominence by Colonel Hamley, to point out how the obvious want of such a force on the French side in 1870 struck the American generals who were looking on. General Sheridan, it is well known, expressed verbally a strong opinion that against such a mounted corps as he himself had commanded in the Shenandoah Valley, and afterwards on the James River in 1864, it would have been impossible to keep the German communications open to the besieging army of Paris."

We also find the following interesting article in the *Allahabad Pioneer*.—"Dragoons.—No doubt many men who have watched carefully the recent progress in the science of tactics have come to the conclusion that the mounted riflemen or dragoon, properly so called, is likely to play an important part in future wars. Most of our readers call to mind an episode in the Autumn Manœuvres, when a Hussar regiment found itself alone opposed to infantry, sent forward a dismounted troop who crept up unperceived within short range of the enemy; a second squadron, mounted, then threatened to charge, upon which the infantry skirmishers formed rallying squares but were immediately fired into by the dismounted hussars who taking them in such compact formation would have nearly destroyed them. In the fight too at Wiford a small detachment of the Bays kept inactive the whole of the Wilts Yeomanry by the admirable skill with which they chose their ground, at the gorge of an old entrenchment at the entrance to a wood. They galloped out to charge their opponents' skirmishers when these ventured within reach, and with the carbine fire of a few dismounted men, posted under cover of the entrenchment, kept at bay the main body when they advanced to their skirmishers support.

The above are of course instances of the employment as mounted rifles of cavalry proper, but in actual warfare men armed with long rifles would necessarily produce by their fire far more effect than could ever be the case with cavalry carbines, especially as the latter are in the hands of men who are very properly taught to pay far more attention to horsemanship and swordsmanship than they do to musketry. We would especially call attention to the importance attached to this description of force by those who have been and are now engaged in reorganizing the Russian Army. In No. LXVII. of the *Journal of the Royal United Service Institution* the strength of the various arms of their service is given by Lieut. Vincent of the 23rd Fusiliers, and the Dragoons are said by him to be in the proportion of 18 regiments to 34 of ordinary cavalry. The reason why, for so many years, so little value has been attached to corps which could act both on horseback and on foot, has no doubt been the inaccuracy of the fire arms used, which rendered the fire of a few skirmishers, even when dismounted, of comparatively little consequence, but owing to the general distribution of rifles and the great improvement lately made in them, the well-directed fire of a few men may now be productive of important results. The value of rapidity of movement cannot be

over estimated, but it is not only in this respect that mounted men have a great advantage over ordinary infantry, it is evident that men on foot after a smart run of 400 or 500 yards, will seldom be cool enough to take careful and deliberate aim, but any one can gallop a horse double that distance without losing his breath or being rendered unsteady. It must often happen, when a strong position is to be assaulted, that if the attacking force can only get up within a few hundred yards of the enemy, it can there obtain some sort of cover, but that to pass over the intervening space is the difficulty, if not the impossibility; in such instances dragoons would often be able to render good service. Passing rapidly over the open ground in extended order they would dismount on reaching a bank or dip in the ground affording a fair amount of cover, and then open a destructive fire upon the enemy's line at comparatively close quarters incurring perhaps little risk themselves except to their horses. As an escort for artillery, and above all to cover a retreat, this description of troops would be particularly suitable, skirmishing on foot they would by the fire of their rifles delay the advance of the enemy far more effectually than is generally possible for ordinary cavalry who have in so many instances, in the attempt to save the infantry sacrificed themselves without producing any corresponding advantage; at the same time dragoons, like other mounted men, have the means of making a rapid retreat and saving themselves when they can no longer hold their ground. A few years ago it was thought by many persons that mounted riflemen would ere long supersede regular cavalry; but such opinions can no longer be held, and our heavier will not only maintain their present position, but it is not impossible that they may some day be furnished with cuirasses, the utility of which was strikingly exhibited in the campaigns in France; nor, on the other hand, will mounted rifles take the place of our dashing Hussar regiments, but they would more properly form a distinct class, and they should be taught to consider the rifle as their weapon, not the sabre.

There seems to us no particular reason for keeping up certain corps as medium cavalry, too light to meet such men as our Life Guardsmen in a charge, and unnecessarily heavy for light cavalry work; our Dragoon Guards, and if necessary some other regiments, should be so mounted and equipped that they may recounter continental Cuirassiers on at least equal terms, and the efficiency of the Hussar regiments, who are already so distinguished as light cavalry, might probably be increased by diminishing further the weight which their horses have to carry; but the third division of this arm of the service should in our opinion be really dragoons, that is to say, light infantry, armed with good rifles, but possessing in addition that power of rapid locomotion which nothing but a good horse and a good seat across country can give.

## THE ARMY OF CANADA

The editor of the monthly "Army List" has at last deigned to recognise the existence of the Canadian Militia. The February issue devotes no less than forty pages to a list of the officers of the several corps of which the force consists. Indeed the greater part of the space set apart for Colonial Militia and Volunteer is absorbed by Canada and the gross negligence or blundering, or both, which for many months has led to the omission of all mention of so important a