
THE WELSH GUARDS

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AMONG the numerous innovations brought about through the present World War, probably the most striking and interesting event in the military annals of Great Britain was the formation of the Welsh Guards. The announcement in *The Times* of August 4th to the effect that the first colours were presented by the King to the Welsh Guards in the grounds of Buckingham Palace recalls the fact that it is less than six months ago since my friend Mr. J. Aubrey Rees first suggested in its columns the formation of this regiment in recognition of the military ardour of the men of Wales, and that ten days later the gratifying intimation was made that "the King has been graciously pleased to sanction an addition to the Brigade of Guards by the formation of a battalion of Welsh Guards."

The institution of this regiment gave considerable satisfaction to the people of all classes throughout the Principality, and, indeed, throughout the world, since Wales is well represented in Canada and every other Dominion and Colony where flies the emblem of the Empire—and beyond. But those unacquainted with the characteristic traits of the Welsh were possibly not a little surprised to discover that quite an animated controversy has arisen as to who was really responsible for initiating the proposal; indeed, the interest aroused has been so keen that one instinctively recalls Isaac Bickerstaff of the early *Spectator* and the controversies which he set out to settle in his "Court of Honour."

Those familiar with the writings of Addison will recollect that on one occasion a Jew and a Welshman were indicted by the keeper of an alehouse in Westminster for breaking the peace (and his earthenware jugs) in a dispute about the relative antiquity of their races. The Welshman contended that the Welsh were a more ancient people than the Jews, but Dathan would