

pean populates to attempt the re-conquest of the Holy Land. Time would not permit me to describe either the extraordinary formation of the armies that successfully carried out the enterprize, or the details of the history which followed.

Reverses followed success, and in 1142, A.D., a second crusade was formed to succor the Christian kingdom which had been formed in Palestine.

Disastrous as were the results of this second fanatical undertaking to the crusaders, it was not until 1187, A.D., that the Kingdom of Jerusalem might be again considered as having passed into the hands of the Mahometans.

In that year, nearly every battle terminated disastrously to the Christians of the East. Their king, Ghy-de-Lusignan, fell a captive to Saladin, whose victorious army repossessed themselves of nearly every city in the Holy Land, and Jerusalem itself capitulated to the conquering Sultan. Tripoli and Tyre alone, saved by the firmness and generalship of Conrad Marquis of Tyre, out of all the vast conquests of the first Crusade, remained to the Christians of Asia.

It was hardly to be expected that the Latin races, when they became aware of the state of things in Palestine, would rest quietly under the knowledge that the land which to them symbolized all that was most precious to their faith, should pass under the sway of an Infidel, or that the holy shrines and sepulchres of the City of their Messiah should be desecrated by the presence and the rites of the followers of Mahomet.

Once more the nations of Europe banded together: once more they ceased, as though controlled by a magician's wand, from their almost ceaseless quarrels, at the preaching to the Crusaders of the prelates of their faith: once more the standards of opposing nations floated peacefully side by side as they gathered together their hosts to rescue the shrines and the relics of their faith from the grasp of the Infidel.

East and west, north and south, busy ministers of religion travelled and preached the Crusade. East and west, north and south, leaders and knights responded to the call. "On to the Holy Land: it is the will of God!" was the cry throughout Europe. All combined to swell the movement. It was the age of chivalry and romance: knightly daring in war was the theme of every tongue: the very sports were deadly duels: the rewards of enterprize in war were beauty, wealth and power. How, then, could warriors do better than join a cause of which not only their fanaticism bade them approve, but in which they found promise of rewards of all that the wildest imaginings of glory, power and voluptuous eastern beauty could pourtray. But of all the monarchs and nobles that gathered to this war, there were three to whom all looked as the master spirits of the movement, as the spears and bucklers of the undertaking:

Frederick of Germany, Phillip of France, and Richard of England. These monarchs stood pre-eminently forward on this great Crusade.

Meantime, whilst the armies are gathering under their respective generals, and whilst by devious routes they are pursuing their way to the proposed theatre of war, let us see what is passing in that land to which their steps are tending. Gup-de Lusignan, the captive King of Jerusalem, escaped from or was released by the Saracens, only to find that every city of his kingdom had passed from his sway, and that he was a homeless wanderer in the land where erstwhile he had governed as a king.

But these were the days of knight-errantry, and the wilder the undertaking the more lofty was the *laus* that was earned if it succeeded; the more noble was the death that failure might entail. So Guy, greater in these his days of extremest distress than he had proved when on the throne, gathered together a few bold knights and nobles who, with their dependents, were, like him, wanderers and fugitives in the country which had owned them as masters, and boldly, in the midst of the hostile races of the Syrian, laid siege to one of their most powerful and important strongholds—that of Acre, or Ptolemais.

To the banner of the Cross, thus once more so boldly raised on eastern soil, adherents of the old kingdom soon flocked, and Guy-de-Susignan found himself in a short time at the head of an army of ten or twelve thousand resolute and desperate men, whose strength, though weak in numbers, rendered them sufficiently formidable to repel any attack that might be made on them by the Saracens, and to give no small alarm to the garrison and inhabitants of Acre.

Acre is situated near the centre of the base of an irregular triangle, which is formed by the shores of the Mediterranean. The northern and eastern boundaries are the mountains of Saron and Gallilee, and a chain of hills terminated by Mount Carmel, which stretches into the sea from the southern limit of the vast plain or amphitheatre which surrounds Acre. This plain is intersected by the river Belus, which flows into the sea a little to the southward of Acre, and is diversified by small ranges of hills or rising ground to the westward. In the rainy season, the Belus and some less considerable streams overflow the flat country near their estuary, and create malaria and consequent diseases.

Acre itself, the then most important seaport, was most strongly situated: on the landward sides, deep ditches, with massive stone ramparts and towers, defended it; whilst its westward battlements were washed by the waves of the Mediterranean. Its port was safe and commodious, and its approaches protected by a massive stone fort or tower.

The resisting powers of its defences were soon to be tried.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW:

SIR,—With reference to the "Any Bore Simultaneous Match," of which the rules were published in your issue of Dec. 23, I have great pleasure in forwarding the following interesting matter I have just received from the Secretary, Capt. McGregor. In reply to my queries he informs me 1st, That there is no average prize so that a club squad of 3 or 4 would have small chance against one composed of 5 members. 2nd, That it will suffice if the entrance fees be sent off one week before the first firing. 3rd, As the question has never been settled in the Toronto Rifle Club as regards keeping the head off the ground in the "Deer Stalking" position, I enquired of Capt. McGregor who replied as follows:—"As I understand the rule it only requires that the rifle should not rest on any substance except that of the Rifleman's body, but as Adjutant of the Scottish eight, I have usually seen that the mounds for each "eight" were level on top, sloping upwards from the rear and, practically, no man has fired except with his elbow either on the ground or on one knee."

To show you how interested the English Committee are that we should participate in the match I give the Secretary's concluding paragraph in full as follows:—"Colonial competitors ought to be encouraged to go into this match, and as they shew pluck by entering against "home shots," if Canada is represented by at least 2 squads there will be a "Colonial prize," dependent on the number of Colonial squads and open only to them in the individual competitions—they of course have also the chance of prizes open to all." "I can assure you, from an almost general knowledge of all our best British small bore shots, that your entering even one squad in the match will very much please us all." "Signed. J. MCGREGOR."

If you can afford room for the following "Regulations and Directions," referred to by Capt. McGregor, they will prove of service for the information and guidance of such as may enter. As it would be trespassing too much on your indulgence to request the publication of the "Register" form, I may only add that I shall be most happy to furnish copies to any desiring them.

I remain,

Yours truly,

A. LORD RUSSELL,

Secy. Toronto Rifle Club.

Toronto, 24th Jan., 1868.

REGULATIONS FOR COLONIAL COMPETITORS IN THE "ANY BORE SIMULTANEOUS MATCHES" OF 1868.

1. A Committee of five members to be appointed, of whom three shall be Volunteer officers, and a secretary.

2. The committee to appoint three several weeks in place of the weeks appointed for Britain, as early as possible, so as to admit of the scores being sent to London, and to arrive by the end of June.