

DENISON'S WORK ON MODERN
CAVALRY.

REVIEWS BY ENGLISH JOURNALS.

(From The Broad Arrow, Sept. 25.)

This book is one of those rare instances in which professional information of the most valuable kind is happily conveyed in a form which should make the book welcome not only to the soldier but to the general reader. The fact is, that from the beginning to end, a young lad thirsting after deeds of daring, or a sighing maiden accustomed to sensation novels, may each have their attention rivetted by the historical illustrations, showing the author's views on the organization and armament of Cavalry and its employment in war; whilst the experienced cavalry officer will not fail to be deeply interested in the new light thrown upon his own peculiar arm of the service, by the author's excellent treatise, and especially from that portion of it which derives its inspiration from the novel experiences of the American civil war, &c.

Reference has been made to the change in the position of cavalry, now that firearms are so much more deadly than heretofore, and the consideration of this fact leads us to our next point, viz: the advantage which will be derived from the employment of mounted men, trained to fight on foot with these new weapons. Colonel Denison's manifest tendency in favor of such a development of the cavalry arm, makes his work of infinite value to all who feel interested in the formation of such mounted troops as, in accordance with our previous remarks, appeared to be indicated as more peculiarly within the power of England to raise. Our author enlarges at great length upon the services rendered by such levies, as those of General Morgan on the Confederate side in the late war, and details many examples in which the Confederate cavalry, by the rapidity of their motions, were enabled to render good service in their dismounted condition, when they arrived at the point where they were to act.

It would be useless for us to quote instances of the many interesting passages from history, which make this book almost as readable as a volume of Percy anecdotes; but we cannot close our review without drawing attention to the great stress laid by our author upon the value of the revolving pistol as a cavalry arm. Indeed, if we were obliged to seek for one principle throughout the work to indicate the object with which it was written, we should say it was to inculcate the truth, that a good revolver must supercede the sabre in all cavalry charges of the future. So little stress, in fact, does he lay upon the sword, that one of the strongest points of his advice is, that for mounted rifles the sword, if used, should be attached to the saddle and not to the horsemen; whilst, on the other hand, instead of the pistols being carried in holsters, they should invariably be slung to the belt of the rider. The remarks regarding equipment and dress are of a very sensible and practical character. The advantage of the jack-boot is insisted upon, instead of the misery of wet and muddy overalls slopping about the legs. A long jacket is advocated in place of a tunic from the practical advantage which the writer sees in the whole dress being then

dried equally by the natural warmth of the body, by the trooper keeping himself in exercise when wet through, a result not to be arrived at when the skirts of his coat do not participate in the animal warmth.

Our space will not allow us to do more than thus to sketch a few of the ideas suggested by the perusal of Colonel Denison's interesting work. The regular service undoubtedly will purchase and estimate it at its true worth. To the officers of yeomanry and volunteer mounted rifles we cordially recommend the book as an admirable and readable compendium to those duties for the performance of which, it should be their ambition to qualify themselves.

(From the Civil Service Gazette, Oct. 3.)

This is a work about which there will probably be great difference of opinion. There are always men in the army, as elsewhere, who have peculiar views with regard to tactics and strategy, and who think that their theories are right, and everybody else's notion wrong. Colonel Denison has expressed his opinions on cavalry in the volume before us, but he has not relied solely on himself or his experience to justify everything that he lays down. He quotes the opinions of great generals, whose military capacity has won the admiration of the world, and in doing this he has so ably interwoven anecdote and incident with that which is more prosy and less exciting, that his work becomes one of great interest and value combined. Col. Denison turns frequently for illustration to the great struggle between the Federal and Confederate forces in America: and as this tremendous war is fresh in the memory of everybody, he renders the book, more attractive as well as easier to understand, by bringing before us incidents with whose history and nature we are acquainted. When those incidents occurred we did not regard them with professional eyes, but did not quite understand the strategic operations which ended in victory or defeat, and the case might be. We are now shown how these things were brought about, what influence cavalry had on the struggle, how that arm of the military service deported itself, and what will be its probable uses in future conflicts.

Our author discusses with much ability the merits and demerits of the various arms with which cavalry are provided. He thinks that Sir Henry Havelock, that cavalry should be a kind of mounted infantry, and the advantages of this must be manifest. But for mere charging purposes Colonel Denison is in favor of the lance, and thinks the revolver should often be employed rather than the sabre. He ably explains the reasons for his decisions, and confirms his opinions with the relation of anecdotes and incidents which prove his assertions. We cannot attempt to go into the details of Colonel Denison's book; our readers will find it interesting to do that for themselves.

(From the Athenaeum Oct. 10.)

Colonel Denison has some interesting chapters on cavalry tactics outposts and patrols, advanced and rear guards, reconnoitring, intelligence, marches, camps, supplies, passage of defiles and rivers, surprises and ambushes, convoys and flags of truce. He writes clearly and arranges his examples well; and we heartily recommend his work not only to the cavalry officer, but to every student of the modern art of war.

The Paris correspondent of the *Army and Navy Gazette* announces the death of Lieut. Colonel Dupin, an officer celebrated in the French army on more than one account, and who died the other day, bored to death by garrison life. The colonel had a stirring time of it, and pined away when his services were no longer required, and his sword had to sleep in its sheath. His military career must have commenced some time ago, as one of Horace Vernet's largest pieces, to be seen at Versailles, the colonel is represented putting his pistol to the ear of an arab. *Figaro* gives us a short notice of this officer's life, from which we gather that he leaves behind him a detestable reputation as a private gentleman, but that he was a soldier of exceptional courage. His whole existence was a game of hazard; he only left the gaming table, where he often staked what belonged to others, to go under fire, where he exposed his life as if it did not belong to him. Toward the end his career he was guilty of frequent acts of cruelty. Having no other quality than his bravery, which was appreciated at its proper value as naturally belonging to the uniform, he lived not overteamed by his brother officers, and his only distraction was danger. During the Mexican campaign he commanded the counter guerillas, and was the terror of the country. He was hated with a bitter hatred.

FENIAN CONGRESS.—Another general Congress of the Fenian Brotherhood is announced to take place on the 24th of November at Philadelphia. The report says that the Assembly Building has been leased for one week for the use of the Convention. It is expected to be the largest and certainly the most important meeting of Irishmen ever convened together. Over one thousand delegates are expected to be present; California, Canada, Ireland, England, Scotland, Australia, and South America, will have a delegation. The members of the Brotherhood of Philadelphia purpose giving a grand civic and military display as a welcome to the delegates.

RELIEFS.—The Government have come to the resolution of at once reducing our military strength in Canada by two battalions. This will change the programme of relief to be carried out by her Majesty's ship "Soom," which left Gibraltar, on Saturday, with the 71st Light Infantry. The programme was as follows; 83rd, Gibraltar to Halifax, 47th, Halifax to Barbadoes; 2nd battalion 16th, Barbadoes to Gibraltar; and 2nd battalion 15th, Gibraltar to Ireland. The 83rd will now remain at Gibraltar, the 2nd battalion 17th being brought home at once from Barbadoes, and the 47th being replaced at Halifax by a battalion, probably the 1st battalion Rifle Brigade, from Canada, which will not be relieved. The 100th Regiment, from Montreal will also be brought home at once, thus reducing the strength in Canada by two battalions.—*Army and Navy Gazette* 24th.

NAVAL AND MILITARY CANDIDATES FOR THE NEW PARLIAMENT.—An analysis of the list of candidates in the new Parliament shows that the army is represented numerously. There are five general officers offering themselves, 36 colonels and lieutenant colonels, 33 majors and 43 captains (military and naval); for admirals also come forward.—*Naval and Military Gazette*.