

they were received by Sir J. Michel, the general in command, and his staff. After inspecting the arrangements of the control Department at headquarters, they were taken to the cavalry camp at Franco Down and Camp Hill, where, a correspondent says, they must have been struck by the fine appearance of the Dragoon, Lancer, and Hussar regiments in their respective camps. They rode over to the Race Down camp where the whole of the infantry are quartered. All but two battalions of the Regulars and Militia had arrived, and the form and dimensions of the camp were clearly seen. Mr. Cardwell appeared to be much pleased with the appearance of the troops, and especially of the Militia regiments from West York and the County Down, both of which have their ranks filled with very fine men. Sir Henry Storks was particular in his inquiries at the control depots, which are so admirably organised that everything promises to work well during the campaign. The party dined that evening with General Sir J. Michel at the head quarters staff.

The scene for miles around Blandford was one to be long remembered for its animation and interest. Far as the eye could reach the turf was covered with countless clusters of bell tents, while here and there, in neat rows, were picketed the horses of the cavalry and artillery. The weather was all that could be desired, and as a correspondent wrote, he must indeed have an unpoetical soul, or be suffering severely from a fit of dyspepsia, who could fail to be struck by the beauty of the scene. The water difficulty, of which we heard so much some months ago, has by the efforts of the Royal Engineers been successfully overcome. The artillery on Buzbury Rings have about a mile to go to water, but the troops who are quartered on the other side of the valley are somewhat better off in this respect. Tanks and pumps have been erected at various places, by which a good supply of water can readily be obtained. The condition and spirits of the force are all that could be desired. We hear of very few hospital cases, and these are principally from slight accidents, such as are inseparable from a march of large quantities of men and horses. Strict orders have been issued with regard to the sanctity of private property; more especially as regards troops trespassing in and damaging woods and plantations. There are several coverts in the neighborhood of the camp which are very strictly preserved, and the outskirts of these are carefully patrolled day and night by pickets, and by the civil and military police. Pickets are also placed on all the roads leading into Blandford, to prevent any soldiers unprovided with a pass from entering the town. The Crown Hotel—the principal hostelry of Blandford—must be doing a thriving business, for it has been the head quarters for some time past of various officials connected with the army, and the stable yard is constantly thronged with staff officers, orderlies, contractors, constables, and others who have business either with the Control Department or with some general or brigadier. The auxiliary transport train from Woolwich is already doing good service, and the horses belonging to the regiments in camp are being utilised in every possible way, so as to lighten as much as possible, the stress put upon the Control. So far the Supply Department appears to have given satisfaction. The rations are sufficient and of good quality and the forage is not stinted, though a larger proportion of corn has to make up for a smaller quantity of hay than the horses are accustomed to in their own stables. Some militia regiments—including one from Ar-

gylshire and another from County Down—are encamped on the race course with the infantry regiments of the Line. The Guards and the 4th battalion of the Rifle Brigade, are close together, and near them are the 2nd Battalion 17th Regiment, the 23rd and 7th Fusiliers, and the 50th and 95th regiments. In the evening bands play, and attract a certain number of spectators, but these latter are principally composed of the inhabitants of the neighboring villages, and of such visitors as take advantage of the numerous omnibuses, frys, and vehicles of all sorts which run "to and fro" between Blandford and the camp.

The correspondent of the *Daily News* wrote on Sunday:—"The southern army is now complete with the exception of the contingent of Volunteers, who does not join before the end of the month. While as yet the mobilization was in progress, very little work in the way of drill was attempted, the regiments as they successively came into camp being allowed to shake themselves in to what to so many was a novel kind of life, without being called upon to turn out in battle array, and be marched and counter-marched on Blandford race course. There have been, of course the usual daily parades and the various regiments have been inspected by the generals commanding brigades. The cavalry have not been quite so idle as the infantry. The three most recently arrived regiments, the Carbineers, the Bays, and the 7th Hussars, have not as yet tested the elasticity of the turf of the Race Down, but on Friday the 3rd Dragoon Guards, the 10th Hussars, and the 12th Lancers were out practising evolutions in the open, and one of the regiments engaged in a little *vidette* duty round the infantry camp. The four Militia regiments which swell the strength of this force are the objects of universal admiration, and men of the regulars, who hastily judged of the Militia by the specimen seen in last year's manœuvres, have already seen cause to alter their opinion. Of the 1st West York I have already spoken. The Royal South Downs—which hail from the north of Ireland, and are not to be supposed to be denizens of the chalk hills where the sheep of the same name have their origin—are very fine fellows, for the most part tall, fairly broad-shouldered, measuring well round the chest and by no means badly set up. Considering that five years elapsed during which the annual training of the Irish regiment was suspended, and that it was only last year that they were resumed, the condition both of the County Downs and of the Kilkenny men in the matters of drill and discipline is very creditable. Comparatively few of the men in either can date the period of their enlistment prior to the commencement of the five years of suspension, and therefore the present state of the regiments may be said to be the result of a single annual training period. It remains to be seen how they will be found in brigade work, and they will probably require very considerate handling in the early days; but they look like men determined to improve and to do themselves credit; and there is much to be done in the way of acquiring steadiness and composure, and a general knowledge of field work, in the course of the ten days which have yet to pass before the march forward for the actual manœuvres. Everywhere throughout the army, work begins in earnest to-morrow (Monday). The two divisions are to strike their camps on the Race Down, and march away separately, in different directions, carrying with them all their impediments, as if they were about to take the field. Arrived at a convenient spot—

one will probably resort to Launceston Down, the other in the Critchill direction, camps will be pitched, and dinners cooked, the divisions then striking tents, marching back to the Race Down, and repitching their camps on the ground they now occupy. If not to-morrow, on the following day, there will be a divisional sham fight, and throughout the week there will certainly be no time for indulgence in the *dolce far niente*, which the hot dry weather now set in would make so pleasant. Yesterday the camps were visited by Mr. Cardwell and Sir Henry Storks, and among the gentlemen of the several staffs there raged excitement not wholly unaccompanied by "funk." Gallopers careered about, announcing with wildness of gesture and tremulous voice that "Mr. Cardwell is coming," apparently anticipating that the volume of meaning contained in these four words was copious enough to render unnecessary any detailed instructions, under the circumstances. No artillery salute, awakening the unaccustomed echoes of Pimper and Bryanstone, greeted the advent of the War Minister. As he passed through the camp irreverent soldiers remained recumbent on the grass adjacent to his track, and the blood of the men with a proper sense of the fitness of things ran cold, when a Fusilier, prone on his stomach, with his heels in the air, was heard to ask of his comrade, "Who the devil that ould bloke" was? It was edifying to watch the manner of reception in different cases of the tidings of Mr. Cardwell's approach. A gallant colonel stood by his tent door as an aide dashed up with the intelligence. "Are you the bearer of any order for me?" asked the colonel with a composure which threw the galloper into a paroxysm of blank astonishment. "No" was the reply. "Then what do you bring?" "Why?" repeated the aide, "I'm coming to tell you that Mr. Cardwell's coming." "I have not the honor to know that gentleman," replied the colonel, "but I don't know any reason why he or any body else shouldn't come when they like. I take my orders from General So and So, and if you bring me any communication from him, I shall be glad to have it attended to. Good morning." In another regimental camp the tidings were not received with quite so much equanimity, and a neat handed piece of *legerdemain* was accomplished with wonderful celerity, the effect of which was to produce that appearance of austere absence of luxury which is *en regle* in field service.

(To be continued.)

CUTTING WOOD WITHOUT A SAW.—A curious invention has just been patented through the Scientific American Patent Agency by George Robinson, M. D. A galvanic current in sufficient quantity, when passed over fine platinum wires raises its temperature to white heat. The most important application of the principle consists in the employment of heated wire in surgical operations as a substitute for a knife. It was found that the red hot wire cuts or burns its way through the flesh. The inventor discovered that wood, a comparatively dry substance even when green, could be cut in the same way. By arranging the wire with handles or other means, so as to guide it readily, trees, logs or planks may be cut as desired. There is here, therefore, a simple and easily applied force, which may be employed to fell trees, divide them into logs, and perform all the operations of the saw and axe. The surface of the wood is slightly charred, but the black layer is very thin. The battery employed need only be of the simplest character.