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AN INCIDENT IN THE MUTINY.

The following humorous incident is from "Mutiny Memoirs," by Colonel A. R. D. Mackenzie, C.B., Hon. A. D.C. to the Viceroy. On the march of the 1st Sikh Cavalry, now the 11th Bengal Lancers, from Delhi to Cawnpore, the author was riding with the advance files, when "a young native woman, wielding with both hands a very long, straight, double-edged sword, such as is frequently used by acrobats at Indian festivities, suddenly appeared in the middle of the road and barred our way. The creature must have been mad or under the influence of 'bhang' or some other intoxicant, for she deluged us with a torrent of abuse as she vigorously brandished the long, thin blade. For a moment I was nonplussed, the situation was so entirely novel. Mad or sane, the virago evidently meant business. There was clearly no getting past her without a fight, and that was quite out of the question. 'Shoot her, sahib,' said one of the sowars with me, little troubled with the polite consideration for the sex which the obligations of an effete civilisation imposed upon his British officer. At that moment, as if by inspiration, a happy thought flashed on my mind. 'Give her *gàlee* (abuse),' I said to the sowar: 'and give it her hot and strong and plenty of it.' Instantly grasping the idea, the grinning sowar opened such a battery of abuse of the vilest and most comprehensive nature upon the unfortunate young person and her female relatives to the remotest degree that her own fire was promptly silenced. Encouraged by this success, the sowar redoubled his efforts, and slung such awful and shameful language with such force and precision that the rout of the enemy speedily became complete. Dropping her long sword, and stuffing her fingers into her ears, she fled with a horrified shriek, and we marched triumphantly on, chuckling at the success of our tactics."

TOMMY ATKINS AND THE TAILOR.

A London correspondent understands that one of Mr. Campbell Bannerman's first measures at the War Office will be to alter the present system of army clothing. At present the new uniforms are issued on the 1st of April, and the arrangement is no doubt a great boon to the contractors, who can make their arrangements beforehand. But it by no means works well in the service—what with regiments going abroad and regiments coming home, recruits, and time-expired men. Very often a man is supplied with clothes that for the moment he does not really want. On the other hand, a private may damage his tunic through no fault of his own before the two years have passed during which it is supposed to last, in which case he is compelled to buy a new one, and the amount is stopped from his pay. Very often he is made to wear the second-hand garment of a man who has left the service, and his pride naturally revolts. A strong committee considered the matter some two years ago, and they recommended the doing away with the entire system.

They advised that Tommy Atkins should be given a proprietary right in his uniform, and that his pay should be increased so as to enable him to buy new clothes according as they were wanted. There is certainly common sense in the notion that a man will be careful of his own. The new regulation is expected to come into force before the next 1st of April.

MILITARY HANDKERCHIEFS.

A military correspondent of the *Leeds Mercury* writes:—Some years ago pocket-handkerchiefs were not considered a necessary part of a soldier's kit. I myself knew a sergeant-major who, when drilling a squad or battalion, would not permit any man to use one, although one day he did order a recruit to fall back and blow his nose, scolding him at the same time for not having "blowed it." "Please, sir, I did blow it," answered the man, "but it wouldn't keep blowed." Permission to carry these useful articles will now probably be given, for I see the War Office authorities have sanctioned a military handkerchief being patented by Lieut.-Colonel Fulton. On this handkerchief is printed all sorts of useful information concerning the use and construction of the Lee-Metford rifle, the alphabet used by army signallers, general rules to be observed in any position in which a soldier may find himself on campaign, the various bugle calls, and other things, many of which are so nicely illustrated that it would be a thousand pities to use it in the manner naturally prompted by a cutting "nor-easter."

TRANSFER OF TROOPS.

No orders having as yet been promulgated to the contrary, the rumor is now gaining ground that the former practice of changing the quarters of all infantry battalions on the transatlantic stations every two years will this winter be departed from, and that all three corps will serve a third year in their present garrison. This will fall hard on the 1st battalion, the King's Liverpool regiment, and especially so on the 2nd battalion, the Duke of Wellington's regiment, at Barbadoes, Jamaica and St. Lucia, the excellent reports on whose good conduct and efficiency whilst at Bermuda and Halifax had led them to expect a happier fate. Motives of departmental economy may have suggested this; but the military expediency of retaining a regiment for three years, scattered in detachments amongst the islands of the West Indies, may be well questioned, and it can hardly be considered encouraging for a commanding officer to pass three years out of his four year tenure without ever seeing more than half his battalion together on parade. Possibly it may now be too late to change the existing programme for winter transport, but the old 76th will at any rate have a fair claim to an early move next year to a more popular and congenial station.—*Army and Navy Gazette.*