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THE EARL OF ABERDEEN.
Honorary President, Boys' Brigade, Scotland.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

The Boys' Brigade, which is spreading all over the United States and Canada, had its origin in Glasgow, Scotland. It is a religious society with a military organization. Its object is, according to the constitution, the advancement of Christ's kingdom among boys, and the promotion of habits of discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards true Christian manliness. Every member is bound in honor and duty to govern his conduct by the following rules: To read his Bible every day; to abstain from liquor and tobacco; never to use profane language and to avoid the company of those who do; always to prefer duty to either pleasure or inclination; to obey strictly the Company rules; to endeavor constantly to maintain the kindness, courtesy and Christian confidence that should prevail in a company of Christian boys.

On the 4th of October, 1883, twenty-eight boys and three teachers in a Sunday-school in the North-West District of Glasgow met together and called themselves "The Boys' Brigade," and in the ten years that have elapsed since then, this simple beginning has grown into a regularly-constituted organization, with headquarters in Glasgow, Scotland; and also in San Francisco, Chicago and Boston, and now numbers 21,000 boys in Glasgow alone, with 490 companies. The growth in

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has been so rapid, that it has outrun any reliable figures. At the close of 1892 there were 112 companies in the United States, with an estimated attendance of about 4,000 boys. This did not include fully as many more company organizations in different parts of the country who had not reported to headquarters. The original Brigade in Scotland was constituted of boys between twelve and seventeen years of age, who were members of some Sunday-school or Christian organization. This movement originated in 1883, and was the conception of W. A. Smith, of the First Lanark Rifles, Glasgow, Scotland. Mr. Smith had been a member of a military company for a number of years, and was

interested in Sunday-school work. He recognized the fact that the boys, after reaching the age of sixteen years, drifted away from the Church, and it occurred to him that a military organization in connection with the Sunday-school might prove attractive to them. With this end in view, he called together the twenty-eight boys and three teachers. His success was marked from the beginning. Its simplicity and practical nature commended it to many who were interested in boys, and the organization rapidly grew to its present membership.

In the organization of the Brigade are three distinct factors: First, the Company, second, the Battalion, and third, the Brigade. The Company is a detachment of boys connected with each church or school. It has a local designation, and is numbered according to the order of formation. These companies are connected with Protestant denominations, and, although the Brigade

lishing in them self-respect, chivalry, courtesy and the host of kindred virtues. To teach drill is not to teach the art of war nor is the drill spirit a war spirit." The true aspiration in teaching the Brigade could not be better summarized than in this quotation from its efficient leader:—

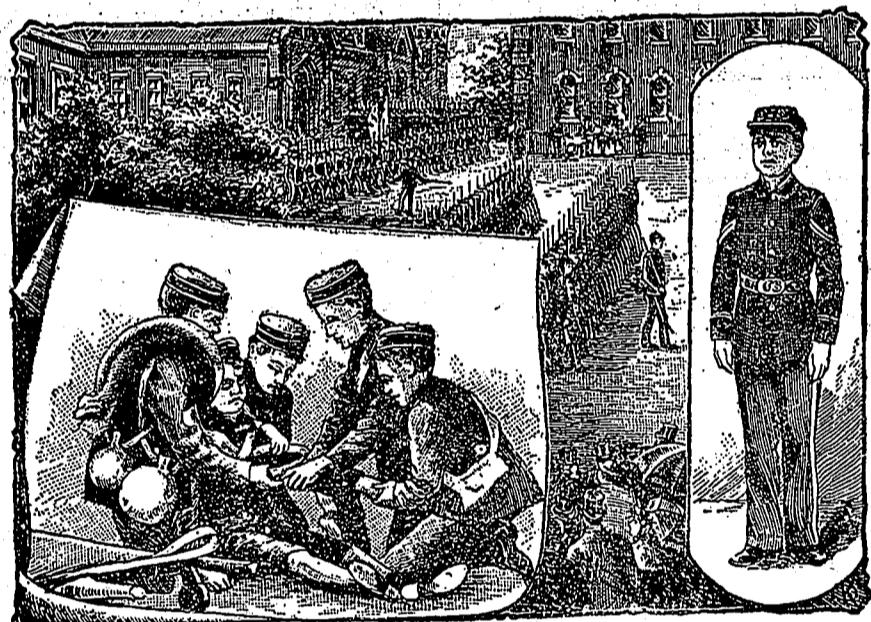
Our boys are full of earnest desire to be true men, and if you want to make them brave, true, Christian men, we must direct this desire in the right channel, and show them that in the service of Christ they will find the bravest, truest life it is possible for them to live. The foundation of the Boys' Brigade is laid on this idea: To win boys for Christ by presenting them with that view of Christianity to which we know their natures will most readily respond. There are points where religious teaching directly comes in. Every company being connected with some existing Christian organization, the boys are urged to attend whatever Bible class exists, and

The various setting up exercises of the United States Infantry tactics, and other gymnastic systems are adopted. Summer camps are organized, which are conducted under the care and attention of the officers of the Church.

One of the most interesting features of the work is the "Ambulance Drill," in which the study of anatomy and physiology is simplified and brought before the boy to enable him to be of assistance in cases of emergency.

This portion of the work has been developed to a very high state of perfection. The organization of drum corps, bands for street parade, etc., is encouraged. Everything that would tend to the development of the manly side of the boy is fostered under the auspices of the Church. Reading and club rooms have also been formed by some companies, and are valuable social and educational influences. In Glasgow the work has drawn to itself the attention of some of the ablest thinkers of the day. The Earl of Aberdeen, the Hon. President of the Boys' Brigade, is an enthusiastic friend of the work. Among the Vice Presidents we find the names of the Earl of Mount Edgumbe, the Right Honorable Lord Kinnaird, General Sir Donald Stewart, Sir Thomas Clark, and Prof. Henry Drummond, whose able pen has been enlisted in this work, and who has contributed quite largely to its literature. The President is J. C. Alston, No. 9 Lorraine Gardens, Glasgow. Mr. W. A. Smith, the originator of the movement is the Brigade Secretary, with headquarters at No. 68 Bath street, Glasgow, Scotland.

THE HISTORY OF THE MOVEMENT in the United States begins with the organization of the First San Francisco Company, August 10th, 1889. Previous to this there was one Company formed in Minneapolis, but for some reason the work was given up. After a few months of drilling the Second San Francisco Company and the First Alameda were organized and very soon after a temporary organization was formed, which has since grown into its present magnitude. The Rev. J. Q. Adams, San Francisco, Cal., is president of the Boys' Brigade in America, and A. H. Fish,



The Ambulance Corps at Work. Company Drill. A Young Officer.
SCENES IN THE BOYS' BRIGADE.

is undenominational, it is part of the constitution that each individual company must be connected with a Church, Mission or other Christian organization. Wherever there are three or more companies, a Battalion is formed. The officers of the Company form the Battalion Council. The term "Brigade" which is used very frequently with a wrong meaning, embraces the whole organization. A Company is designated as, "The First Detroit Co. of the Boys' Brigade."

Prof. Henry Drummond, Hon. Vice-President of the Boys' Brigade, says:—

"Contrary to the somewhat natural impression, the Boys' Brigade DOES NOT TEACH THE ART OF WAR nor does it foster or encourage the war spirit. It simply implies military organization, drill and discipline, as the most stimulating and interesting means of securing the attention of the boys, and of estab-

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W. A. SMITH,
The Founder of the Boys' Brigade.