

## THE AUTUMN MANOEUVRES.

## THE SCENE OF OPERATIONS.

(From the Broad Arrow, Sept. 7.)

(Continued from Page 593.)

WEDNESDAY SEPT. 4TH.

*The Northern Army on Salisbury Plain.*—It was anticipated yesterday that a very early march of the division of cavalry would take place, and it subsequently became known that Parko's Brigade of the 3rd Division of Infantry was to be sent on with them. The cavalry seemed to have stayed up all night, to be up so early in the morning. After tattoo and before reveille, when in war time no sound ought to be heard in a camp, they were making a good deal of noise round their bonfires, so much that the stumbers of those who were tented in the headquarters portion of Rushall Park were disagreeably disturbed. From ten o'clock the lightning was frequent, and about the hour when General Shute and his mounted officers were supposed to be setting out, the rain would have been announced heavy even in the tropics. The 3rd and 4th Divisions were under orders to march at half past six, and precisely at that hour they and the headquarters of the corps d'armée set out from the grounds on which they encamped last night. General Walpole, accompanied by his staff, set out in advance of the 3rd Division, following the route by the left bank of the Avon. The 4th Division took the right bank, and had a magnificent march of it on to Salisbury Plain, by Stonehenge, and on to the encampment. The column was led by Maxwell's brigade, having the usual advanced guard, and closely followed by Colonel Pakenham's brigade. The 2nd Middlesex, better known as the Edmonton Rifles, were the first regiment in the order of march. Their band was at their head, and the manner in which they acquitted themselves on the march was highly creditable to them as a Volunteer corps. There is an easy spring, and at the same time a firmness in their step which might well be emulated not only by other auxiliary corps, but by more than one regiment in the regular army. The 2nd Middlesex were followed by the 102nd Fusiliers, and they were succeeded by the 46th Regiment. In Col. Pakenham's brigade, the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Regiment led, and was followed by the 28th and South Gloucester Militia. Col. Stephenson's brigade, composed of the 30th Regiment, the 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, and the 3rd Provisional Brigade Rifle Volunteers, brought up at the rear of the column. Each Brigade, was, of course, followed by its battery of Artillery and detachment of Engineers. As the Volunteer men were passing through the village of Upavon the general spoke in laudatory terms of their style of marching. The morning was a beautiful one for marching; a warm atmosphere, without too bright a sunshine, was fast drying up the roads and fields. The regimental wagons marched with the column but the heavy Control wagons and carts were sent by another route. The one taken by the troops was a very long one. In taking Amesbury by the way, and passing through that village, their way was two sides of a triangle, of which the direct road from Upavon to Winterbourne forms one side, but as two divisions and their transport were all travelling between the same two points at the same time, it would have been impossible without causing great confusion, and as a

result great delay, to send both divisions by the direct route, and the 4th Division had certainly nothing to complain of except having to walk a little farther than if they were ordinary wayfarers. As the column came out of the village of Upavon and crossed the bridge, it had the narrow River Avon close to it on the right, and on the opposite bank, moving in a line almost parallel to its own, was the 4th Division. On its left were those beautiful land undulations, the Everley Downs. By a gradual ascent the troops reached a point commanding a charming view of the hamlets of Haxton and Netheraven, on the opposite sides of the river. At this elevated point it halted ten minutes, and then resumed the march at the sound of "Bonnie Dundee," played by the Edmonton Rifles. At Longstreet all the villagers turned out to view the moving column. About half a mile outside Amesbury the columns came on the field ovens in the temporary control depot there. The bakers were hard at work drawing out batches from the ovens at the time the troops were passing, but it appears that in respect of the supply of fresh meat a very unforeseen accident had occurred. The lightning in the night had so badly "turned" what had been killed a day or two ago for the use of the troops that it was quite unfit for use. This had only been discovered early in the morning, when fresh oxen and sheep were at once purchased and slaughtered. At Amesbury the division found not only the inhabitants awaiting them at the windows and doors, but ladies and gentlemen on horseback and in carriage at either end of High Street. It had been determined to order a halt for breakfast somewhere about this point, and some large fields at Little Amesbury, about half a mile beyond the village, and to the left of the road leading up to the Normanton Downs and Stonehenge, were selected. Close to these fields is a farm, and here the general and staff dismounted. It is with regret that we record that soon after leaving Upavon Lord Mark Kerr sprained a muscle in his thigh, by the sudden starting of his horse. He refused to avail himself of the use of a carriage. He managed to ride on horseback for the rest of the march, but not without difficulty and pain. Scarcely had the headquarter staff sat down on the turf for some light refreshment when a number of distinguished visitors arrived at the temporary headquarters in rapid succession. First came Lord Melville, next the Duke of Buccleuch, then the Duke of Northumberland and Lord Algernon Percy; almost immediately afterwards the Baron de Grancy, and several other of the foreign officers; and lastly Mr. Cardwell and Mr. Bouverie. The Secretary for War rode about the field in which the troops were breakfasting. The fresh meat for the troops were served out during the halt; it must have been rather tough, seeing how recently it had been killed, but no doubt the men preferred it to salt pork. After about an hour the order for resuming the march was given. A delay was caused to a portion of the column by a number of the South Gloucester Militia having strayed to some distance for water. The commanding officer felt it necessary to send a guard to bring them back. When the order for putting on packs were given, and the brigades were once more put in marching order, the scene at the camping ground was one of the most interesting that has been witnessed in the whole course of the march from Aldershot. The battalions faced Normanton Down, and the ancient Stonehenge was in front of the troops at a distance of less than a mile. The sun was

shining over Salisbury Plain, and those huge stones stood up and out in the boldest relief from the wide plain beneath. General Maxwell's Brigade was in front in column of companies, the 2nd Middlesex in their black uniform to the extreme right, the 102nd Fusiliers in their busbies next, and the 46th, with a battery of artillery, to its left. There was a crowd of ladies and gentlemen in the field, and every battalion passed out on the high road with bands playing. On Normanton Down, just opposite Stonehenge, Mr. Cardwell again rode up to the division, and Mrs. Cardwell and many other ladies had also assembled at a point near Stonehenge to see it pass. Fields near Borwick St. James was the destination of the division. On its arrival there, it found that the 3rd Division had already pitched its tents not far from Winterbourne Stoke, and it received orders itself to encamp on Winterbourne Stokehill; all but the 3rd Brigade. This, with Colonel Lestrangle's battery of artillery, was sent forward. There is joy in camp that General Shute has been successful in capturing fords; but the decision said to have been given by the Duke of Cambridge in respect of the fords on the river which separate the two armies—namely, that those to the south east of Staploford to Salisbury are not neutral—has the effect of very considerably widening the front of the defending army and of the 4th Division, and consequently, of rendering the work which our troops have to perform very much more difficult. Vedette and outpost duty are in full operation, but it is not expected that a general engagement will come off before Friday.

(To be continued.)

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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## FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Victoria, Nov. 21, 1872

There is at present, little to write about here. The city has been a little lively lately, in consequence of two or three Dramatic Troupes having, one after the other, made sojourns of a few days each. The survey parties coming in, and some miners coming down, also add to the life of the place, but it does not amount to much, and no real change will be perceptible till the railroad is at least, begun. I have several times in the course of my travels, imagined myself at the "ends of the earth," but, I really think Victoria is the jumping off place; tho' its beauty is considerable, and its capabilities great, if only its extreme isolation be once destroyed, and a stream of immigration set in.

H. M.'s ship, *Scout* has gone to San Juan, to take off the British garrison, as Captain Delacomb's six years absolute monarchy, comes to an end, so will the pride, and power, and honor of England, in a few years more, if she goes on as she has done for the last few years. I believe there is an island in Lake Superior, that our southern neighbors want now, England may as well let