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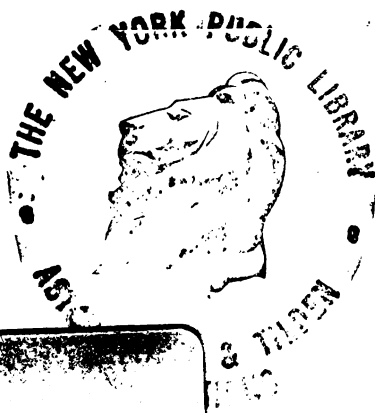


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Jm Lamont

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Volunteer Memories

(2959

By

COLONEL WILLIAM LAMONT,

Late Commanding

1st (Renfrewshire) Volunteer Battalion

Princess Louise's

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS.

JAMES McKELVIE & SONS, LTD.,
GREENOCK.

1911.

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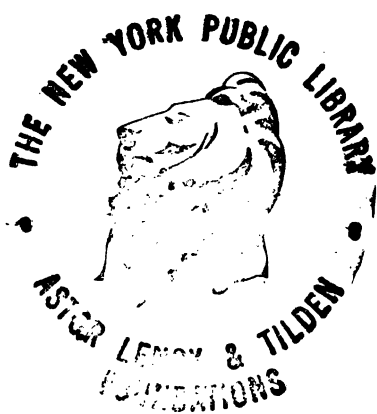
THIS VOLUME OF
"VOLUNTEER MEMORIES"
IS RESPECTFULLY

Dedicated to
Colonel Sir Thomas Glen Coats,
BARONET,

LORD LIEUTENANT OF RENFREW
AND
PRESIDENT OF THE TERRITORIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION
OF THE COUNTY.

W. L.

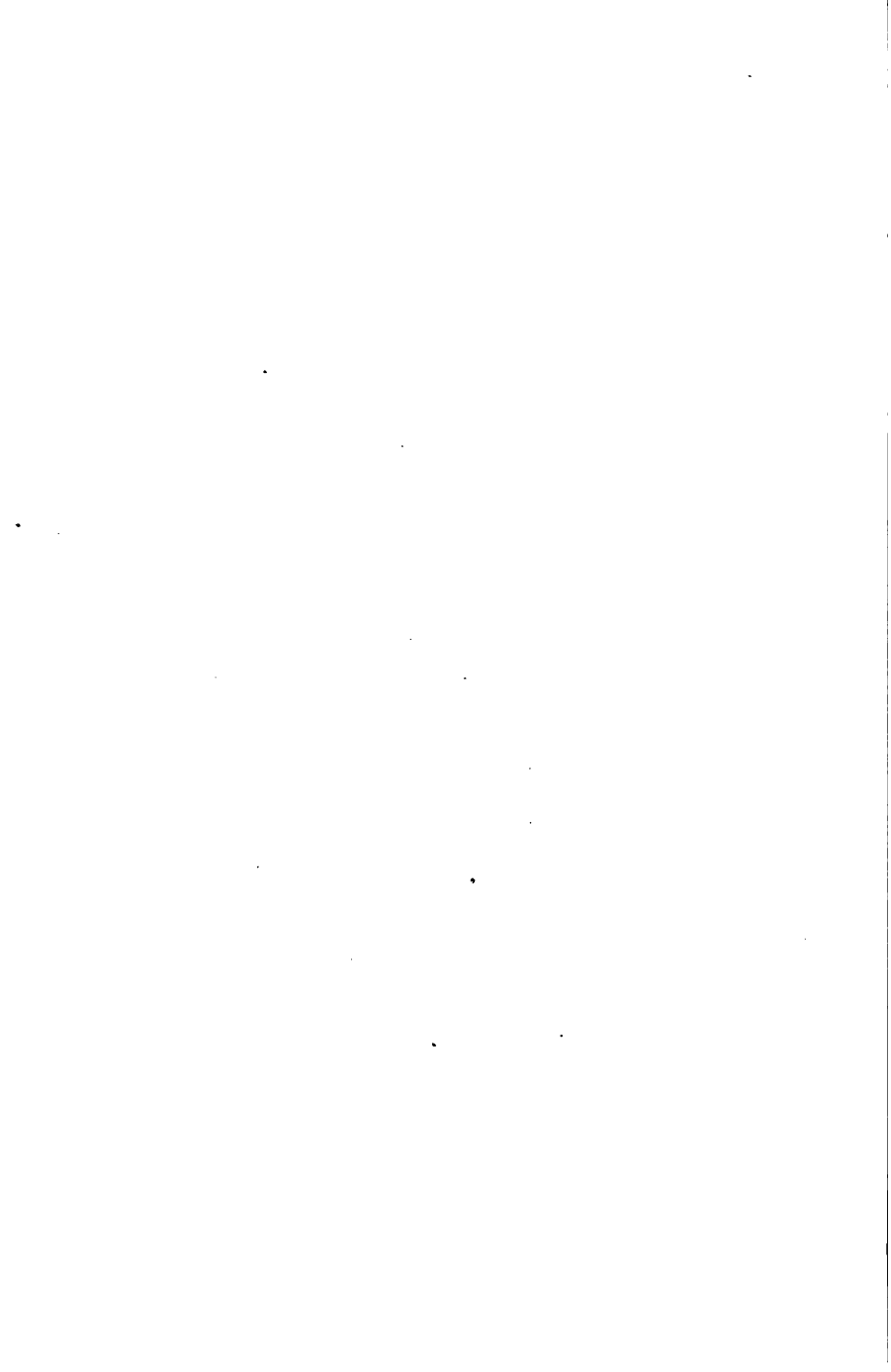
GREENOCK,
1st March, 1911.



PREFACE.

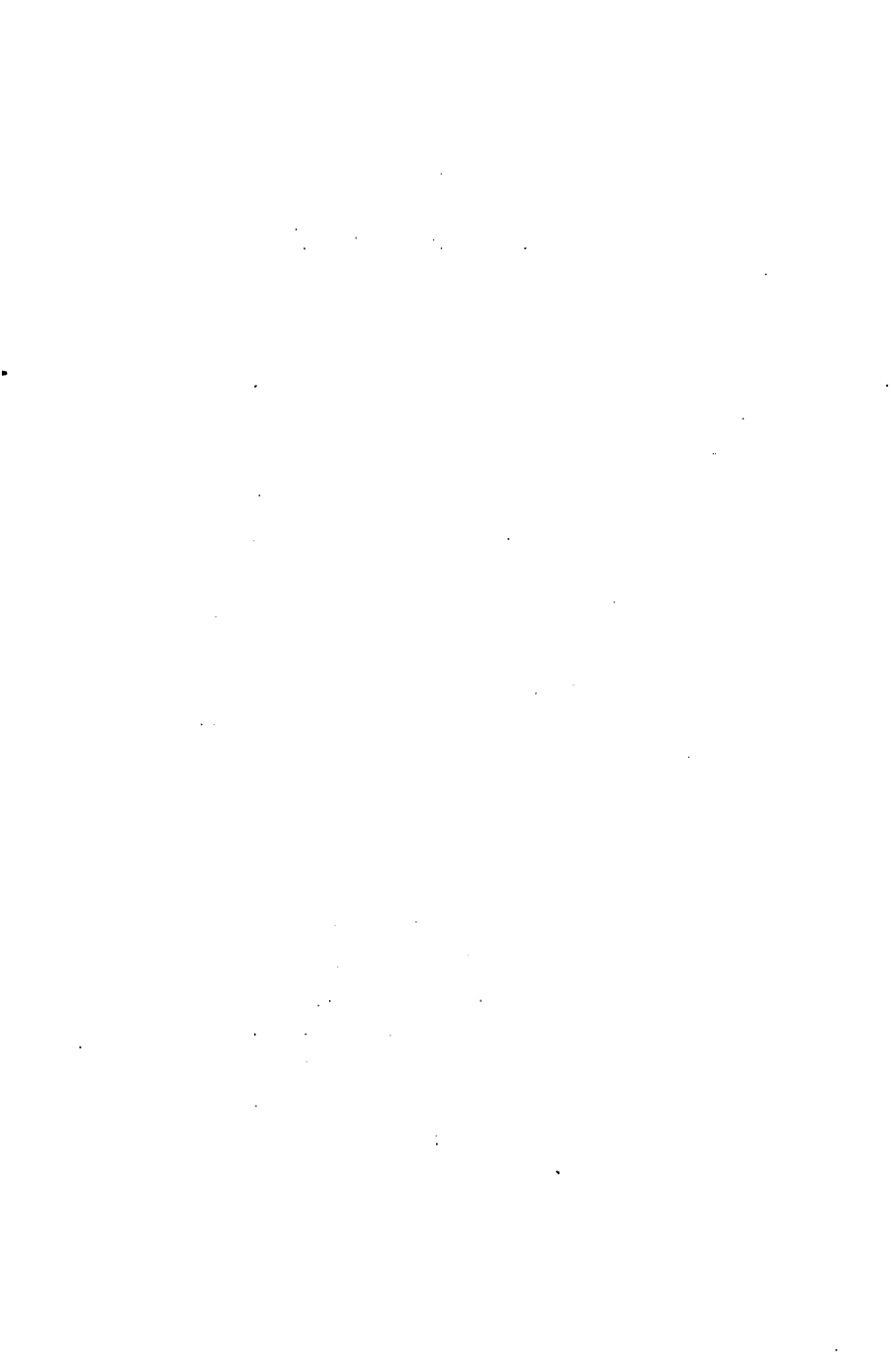
THE following pages have been written at the earnest solicitation of friends who wished to have in permanent form, and in small compass, the story of the 1859 Volunteers. Allusions have been made for comparative purposes to some of the old-time Volunteers, but in the main the "Memories" are limited to the last fifty years, and were commenced on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Volunteer Force. The papers are somewhat discursive, were hastily written, and have no claim to literary merit.

While touching on many phases of national defence, the work is essentially local, and as such is confidently committed to the generous reception of fellow-townsmen and old Volunteer comrades.



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VOLUNTEER MEMORIES.

CHAPTER I.

FROM some interesting old documents which have come into my hands, I find that the Volunteer movement was alive in Greenock as early as 1793. In that year the Loyal Greenock Volunteers sprang into existence.

The corps was divided into Grenadiers and a Light Company. The officers of the Grenadiers were : Captain Alexander Dunlop, Deer Park ; Lieut. Pollock Campbell, Seafield ; Lieut. James Ewing, Deer Park ; and of the Light Company : Captain James Bogle, Deer Park ; Lieut. James Knox, Cartsdyke ; and Lieut. Robert Caldwell. Their names and addresses, together with those of the rank and file, appear in the corps orders of 1795, by Major Archibald Campbell, which are interesting reading, and should not prove amiss to present-day Territorials :—

“The O. C. is sorry to observe that many of them think they are already perfect in the discipline of soldiers—such an opinion is dangerous to the very existence of the corps. A soldier ought never to think himself perfect ; he should be satisfied that something new and of use may be learned every day of his life ; and should conform to every command of his superior, let it appear to him ever so trifling. In a corps of Volunteers there can be no want of courage, for though all men are not blessed with the same strength of nerve, yet reflection on the consequences of cowardice must make every man brave, and the commandant is perfectly convinced that no disgrace will ever happen to the corps on that account. The field day musters are to be every Wednesday afternoon at 4.30, till further orders. The Volunteers are to turn out with their

D. M. R. Johnstone, Private, Shaw Street.
 Hugh Robb, Private, Broad Close Head.
 Thos. Lang, Private, Mid Quay Head.
 Andrew Houstoun, Private, Market Street.
 Jas. Wood, Private, Hamilton Street.
 James Lyon, Private, William Street.
 Donald Martin, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Robt. Lindsay, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Daniel Kerr, Private, Cathcart Street.
 Chas. Ogilvie, Private, Mid Quay Head.
 Alexr. Still, Private, Shaw Street.
 Wm. Cumming, Private, Broad Close Head.
 Thos. Erskine, Private, Cartsydyke.
 Neil Drummond, Private, Cross-shore.
 Jno. Harper, Private, West Quay Head.
 Peter Rennie, Private, Ling burn.
 John Kerr, Private, Kirktown.
 Charles Wallace, Private, East Quay Head.
 Dugald Love, Private, Cross-shore.
 John Graham, jr., Private.

LEFT DIVISION OF THE LIGHT CO.

Robert Caldwell, Lieutenant.
 Jas. Fraser, Sergeant.
 Jno. Hynd, Private, Market Street.
 Peter Smith, Private, Vennel Head.
 Jno. Spence, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Peter Campbell, Private, East Quay Head.
 Geo. Wynhous, Private, Cartsydyke.
 Robert Dean, Private, Deer Park.
 Jas. Erskine, Private, Manse Lane.
 Geo. Johnston, Private, Cathcart Street.
 Jas. Scott, Private, Dalrymple Street.
 Jas. Park, Private, West Quay.
 Thos. Lorimer, Private, Market Street.
 Peter Currie, Private, Cartsydyke.
 Jas. Kelly, Private, Manse Lane.
 Daniel Campbell, Private, Market Street.
 Hugh M'Corquodale, Private, Long Vennel.
 Dug. Shannan, Private, Sugarhouse Lane.
 Jas. Finlay, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Jas. Alexander, Private, West Quay Head.
 Jno. M'Farlane, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Dun. M'Gill, Private, Manse Lane.
 Alex. Thomson, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Francis Morgan, Private, West Quay Head.
 Jas. Hunter, Private, Cathcart Street.
 Lachlan M'Lean, Private, Kilblane.
 Alexr. Ninian, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Nicholas Khull, Private, Kilblane.
 Alexr. M'Lean, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Roderick M'Leod, Private, Post Office.
 Ralph Logan, Private, Hamilton Street.
 Jas. Gellie, Private, Kilblane.
 John Wilson, Private, Rue-end.

The next document I find is an invitation to the old members of the disbanded corps to dine together in the Tontine on 4th June, 1823. This circular was signed by John Hunter, Dalrymple Street; Wm. M'Fie, William Street; and John Campbell, Shaw Street, all of whom I find were privates in the muster roll of 1795. Such social functions seem to have been held triennially.

I find that on 4th June, 1841, according to the "Greenock Advertiser," the members of the Loyal Greenock Volunteers met in the Tontine—Mr. Robert Ewing presiding as chairman, and Mr. John Campbell performing the duties of croupier.

As may easily be imagined, the party, although reinforced by a number of the Greenock Loyal Volunteer Artillery and a detachment of Sharpshooters, was few in number. But, though the muster was thin, the spirit displayed was good, and the veterans spent the evening in social and animated conversation, intermixed with interesting anecdotes and reminiscences of bygone days. Mr. Hugh Mathie, of Liverpool, with his accustomed recollection of his former companions in arms, and to atone in some degree for his absence from the meeting, provided the material for a dish of excellent turtle soup. The average age of the members present was seventy years and a half.

The colours of the corps were displayed in the hall, tattered, no doubt, in consequence of long service, but calculated, as relics of the days of a stirring period, to bring to recollection many interesting associations. Previous to the death of the respected commandant, Alex. Dunlop, Esq., of Keppoch, the colours remained in his keeping in obedience to the 5th regulation of the institution of the corps, by which it was provided that "the colours, when received, shall remain in the custody of the Major Commandant."

As the oldest surviving officer present, the colours were now consigned to the keeping of Mr. Ewing. They remained in Mr. Ewing's hands till his death, and were afterwards handed over by his son, Alexander, to Major Latham, Commanding Officer of the Greenock Rifle Volunteers. Colonel Latham in turn gave them into the safe keeping of Colonel Lamont, by whom they were reverently deposited in the headquarters of the battalion, 34 Union Street, Greenock.

CHAPTER II.

AS it was in 1793, the year when Napoleon, as a young Corsican Lieutenant of Artillery, had begun to distinguish himself, that the Loyal Greenock Volunteers were formed, so in 1804, the year when he was proclaimed Emperor of the French, there appears to have been a regiment of Greenock and Port-Glasgow Volunteers. A very handsome regimental colour, which was presented to the corps by the Magistrates and Town Council of Greenock, is carefully preserved in a glass case at the headquarters of the 5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

France seems always to have been the chief factor in causing the formation of our Volunteers. As soon as Napoleon Bonaparte became First Consul, he commenced his schemes for throttling the British Lion, and war was declared in the year 1803. Volunteering began again, and continued for some years. The Battle of Trafalgar did not daunt him, so we find him organising the Boulogne Flotilla for the invasion of this country; and so sure was he of success that he had a medal struck to commemorate an event which never took place. What might have been may yet be attempted, and we should make assurance doubly sure not only by having a fleet of the two-Power standard, but by having a Territorial Army for home defence, in which every man in the country should serve, and to which he should esteem it an honour to belong. Universal military training without any dislocation of the trade of the country is, in our opinion, the key to the success of the Territorial system. Otherwise the willing horse is overburdened, or a system of recruiting resorted to, which is unworthy of a great nation, and, shall we say, of Scotland the brave and the home of the free!

In addition to the Loyal Greenock Volunteers, the Artillery, and the corps of Sharpshooters already mentioned, reference must be made to the Armed Association.

I am indebted to the courtesy of Mr Colin MacCulloch, Town Clerk, for two holograph sheets which were discovered among other old papers in the vaults of the Town Hall about fourteen years ago, and were then framed and exhibited in the Colonel's Room at headquarters, as an indication of the patriotic spirit displayed by the best men of the town in the year 1820. Many of the signatories are well known, and include James Oughterson, George Dempster, Jas. Kippen, R. Dow Kerr, Quintin Leitch, J. Scott, jun, Alex. Dunlop, John Dunlop, and Wm. Robertson. The names number about 200 in all, and are appended to a document of which the following is a copy :—

“GREENOCK, 7th April, 1820.

“We the subscribers hereby offer to enrol ourselves as an Armed Association in the same terms of service with any of the other Volunteer Corps of the country to aid in the preservation of peace and property. Arms and accoutrements only to be furnished by Government, and which we hereby oblige ourselves to return when required. The officers to be chosen by ourselves subject to the approbation of the County.”

As the Peterloo massacre occurred in the previous year the people were starving, and the country was in a state of so great excitement that an Act of Parliament was passed, entitled the Six Acts, directed against military training for the purposes of insurrection, the secreting of arms, seditious libels, seditious meetings, &c. We presume the anticipated danger was internal and not external, and perhaps accentuated by the death of George the Third and the accession of his eldest son, George the Fourth of unhappy memory.

CHAPTER III.

IN the end of 1852 when Louis Napoleon elected himself Emperor of the French with the title of Napoleon the Third, a list of names of gentlemen desirous of serving as Volunteers in Greenock was taken by that fine old Volunteer, Mr. D. Macduff Latham, in conjunction with Mr. James Stewart, of the well-known firm of J. & W. Stewart. Unfortunately the documents which Mr Stewart subsequently wrote about as likely to prove interesting some day cannot now be found, but we suppose the promoters of the movement made haste slowly, as it was not till the year 1854, famous in history as that of the Alma, Sebastopol, Balaclava, and Inkermann, that an application was made to the Government for permission to raise a corps of Volunteers in Greenock, addressed to Lord Palmerston as Secretary of State for the Home Department. The following is a verbatim copy :—

“GREENOCK, 8th February, 1854.

“My Lords.—It is the wish of many influential persons in this town and neighbourhood that a local corps of Riflemen should be formed for the defence and protection of this important commercial district. I need not state to your Lordship that in the immediate vicinity of Greenock, where the navigable channel opens into a broad and spacious estuary, we find at once the key to the Clyde as well as to the command of the large and populous district through which it flows. The three ports of Glasgow, Port-Glasgow, and Greenock are known to be seats of extensive manufactures in every branch of national industry, employing many thousand men, and a very large amount of capital, possessing besides a foreign and home trade of several hundred thousand tons, many of the vessels engaged in which, are either in harbour in Greenock, or at anchor in the Roads opposite, while the Customs duties collected at these ports amount on an average to upwards of eleven hundred thousand pounds per annum. Our only permanent defence here is a fort mounting ten or a dozen

guns, but the guns have been removed elsewhere, and the garrison at this moment consists of a single superannuated artilleryman. An immense amount of property is thus open to the descent not only of an enemy in vessels of war but to the attack of Privateers and "Letters of Marque" which it would be difficult for our Naval Squadrons effectually to keep out, and whose presence in the Clyde would be followed by the burning of our shipping and the destruction of our trade. The position of Europe at present and the prospect of a protracted war is the best apology which can be offered for soliciting your Lordship's consideration to the totally unprotected condition of this portion of the Empire. We can raise a body of at least two to three hundred active young men in this town, and we have reason to believe that were they drilled and trained to the use of the new rifle they would be found of the greatest service, and would materially assist in the object which we have in view at a very moderate outlay on the part of the Government. The class to which these young men belong would ensure them at all times to be depended on by the Magistrates for the prompt and energetic defence of the lives and property of the community on every emergency which might occur. I would very respectfully beg leave to ask whether the formation of such a corps under Government sanction would be agreeable to your Lordship. If desired, statements and lists would then be forwarded for your consideration and approval through the member for the burgh, or in any other way which you may be pleased to direct.

"I have the honour to be your Lordship's faithful,
humble servant,

"JAMES STEWART,
"Chairman of Committee."

To this communication a reply was received through Mr. Dunlop, the member for the burgh, conveying the thanks of Lord Palmerston to the gentlemen of Greenock for their gallant offer, but suggesting that a battery would be the most efficient defence for the Clyde. Very curiously it was in 1859, when Lord Palmerston became Prime Minister, and General Peel, Secretary of State for War, that the Volunteers began to form; and in the early sixties, when his Lordship was entertained at a public banquet in the New Town Hall, Greenock, that the 1st R.R.V. paid him the

compliment of giving him a guard of honour when he landed from one of Burns' steamers at the east-end of the Steamboat Quay. I had the honour of forming one of the party, and we marched as an escort to his Lordship, following his open carriage by way of the Sailors' Home and the Rue-end to the banqueting hall. There we had the further honour of seeing the lions feed, but received neither "gerse nor water," although we stood badly in need of both. To resume our narrative, although declined by the Government, Mr. Stewart and his friends still kept the offer open, as will be seen by the following letter addressed to Mr. Murray Dunlop, M.P.:—

GREENOCK, 20th March, 1854.

"My Dear Sir.—Since my return home I have had several conversations with the gentlemen who interested themselves in the proposal for the formation of a Greenock Rifle Corps made through you to Lord Palmerston. Whilst they agree with his Lordship on suggesting that a battery would be the most efficient defence for the Clyde, they seem to think there might be difficulty in raising here and keeping together a sufficient number of Artillerymen, as the work required would hardly be of a nature prepossessing to Volunteers. The movement we have made will be most beneficial if it results in the erection of a battery (whether manned by Regulars or Volunteers) in this neighbourhood, where at present any sort of defence is so totally wanting, but we would wish to have it urged at headquarters that a Rifle Corps, while it would be infinitely more popular, would also be a most necessary and invaluable adjunct to a company of Artillery. I am aware you mentioned to me that a main objection of Government to the organisation of such corps was the idea that they might interfere with the recruiting of the Militia. In this case, however, I think there is no risk of that, as few, if any, Greenock men are likely to join the Militia, the distance to Paisley, their former quarters, being seventeen miles. Besides, the corps might be made strictly local by confining it to residents in or within two or three miles of the town. I beg to call your attention to a leading article that appeared in the *Sun* of Tuesday last on the subject of Rifle Corps, containing a letter from Lord Palmerston granting permission to enrol one in Middlesex last July, and we hope his Lordship may yet be induced to give a similar permission to Greenock,

seeing that the state of affairs is now more imminent and the wants of this locality, we should think, fully more pressing. As you were good enough to take up this matter so heartily when first stated, we feel sure you will continue to give us your assistance, and therefore leave it to you to push our request further at present or not as you think best.

“Believe me to be, your obedient servant,

JAS. STEWART.

“Alex. Murray Dunlop, Esq., M.P. for Greenock.”

CHAPTER IV.

FROM the period of the Russian War, when the war spirit was very strong in the country, down to 1859, the idea of promoting a Rifle Corps in Greenock seems not to have been lost sight of. In those days the *Greenock Telegraph*, which, by the way, was only published three times a week—Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday—cost a penny, and was not dear at the money (the *Greenock Advertiser* being sold at two-pence). The leading article of the *Telegraph* of the 11th June breathed a spirit of fervent patriotism, and went wholesale for the movement with true *perfervidum ingenium Scotorum*. After the lapse of half a century it may not be amiss to quote the concluding paragraphs of the article :—"It must not be forgotten that Scotland preserves her virgin purity. Her soil has never been stained by the footprints of an enemy. She has always fought on the side of civil and religious freedom. Heretofore, when the rights of the nation were imperilled, she has neither spared her blood nor her treasure. She bore her part at Fontenoy and Minden, at Corunna and Talavera, at Salamanca and Waterloo, at Alma and Inkermann, at Ferozeshah and Cawnpore. Her children will still show in a good and righteous cause that the ancient spirit is not fled. Old times, we say, are breathing there. Should our altars or our homes be menaced, it will then be seen that we can repel the invaders."

Albyn, land of deathless fame,
Hearts are kindled at thy name ;
Freedom 'mid thy mountains lone,
Still preserves her vestal throne.

The first public meeting in Greenock, of those favourable to the formation of Volunteer Corps, Rifle and Artillery, was held in the Council Hall on Thursday evening, 9th June, 1859. For some time previously the fiery cross had gone round, and a list

of Volunteers had been opened for signatures in R. A. Baird's shop, Cathcart Street. A county meeting had been held at Paisley not long before, when the district of Greenock had been assigned to Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart. The meeting in the Council Hall was well attended. It was presided over by Provost Duff, with his usual tact and ability. Of all those recorded as being present, the only two now alive are Wm. Ross and Benjamin Noble, brother of Sir Andrew Noble. As was fit and proper, Mr James Stewart was to the fore, and moved Provost Duff to the chair. The Chairman explained that Sir Michael was detained in London, but that Mr David Crawford, the Baron Bailie, had called a meeting of the gentlemen to whom, under Sir Michael, the district was assigned—Major Darroch, Mr. Matthew Brown, Mr. Stewart, and himself—and that it was by them this meeting had been summoned. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed, and the speaking was of a very high order. But it is rather amusing to find the Provost saying, with reference to the formation of an Artillery Corps: "Such as were a little stiffer or advanced in years might prefer to join the Artillery, and in this way they might practice on a large gun." Also when contending that the Government should provide the fire-arms, remarked that "the Government had plenty of old muskets;" but was immediately interrupted by Captain Sicklemore, R.N., of the revenue cutter: "These won't do; they'd go off at half-cock."

Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed at the meeting regarding the attitude assumed by the Government in refusing arms and accoutrements to the Volunteers. This policy was consistently followed by successive Governments, and it was only by dint of perfervid patriotism and hard knocking at the doors of the War Office that the Volunteers obtained proper recognition and support.

The efficiency and permanence of the Volunteer



MAJOR JAMES STEWART.



MR ROBERT NEILL.



SURGEON-MAJOR W. J. MARSHALL.

movement are due to its own inherent vitality, and not to any encouragement received from the authorities. Almost every concession made has been carried at the point of the bayonet. Not only permission to serve, but every advance in organisation and consolidation has been due to the dogged determination of the Volunteers themselves. No nation in the world can point to a similar case where a loyal and patriotic people have voluntarily submitted themselves to enormous personal expense, snubs and indignities beyond measure from officialdom, and great personal inconvenience in the way of training and discipline, for the privilege of serving an ungrateful country without fee or reward. Happy is the nation which is in such a case! In Greenock, in the olden times, the Loyal Volunteers, under Colonel Campbell, and subsequently the Greenock and Port-Glasgow Corps, formed in 1804, were furnished with clothing and arms, but a little corps, called the Sharpshooters, equipped themselves.

In 1859, although many of the first Volunteers provided their own uniforms and arms, it was decided to open a subscription list, so that those who were willing to serve, but not in a position to lay out £10 or £12 for their equipment, might be able to do so. On the motion of Councillor J. J. Grieve, the Town Council agreed to impose a voluntary assessment of 3d per £ on all rentals above £10 with the same object in view. The resolutions come to at the public meeting were: (1) That the persons present at the meeting approve of the movement in the county, which has received the sanction of the Government, for the formation of local Volunteer Rifles and Artillery Corps; (2) that with this view a committee, consisting of Messrs. Matthew Brown, Jas. Stewart, D. M. Latham, P. M. Black, Hugh Cuthbert, Ed. Hyslop, Alex. Wyse, Wm. Allison (Broomhill), and Robt. Neill (Mr. Neill, convener), be appointed to

draw up the conditions and regulations of the respective corps, and to procure subscriptions towards the Corps' Funds, and also to co-operate with the committee which has been appointed by the Town Council in regard to the proposed voluntary assessment in aid of the object of the meeting, the committee to have power to add to their number; (3) that the same committee be appointed, with same power, for the purpose of having the various wards of the town canvassed for Volunteers. The following gentlemen were afterwards added to this committee: Messrs. D. F. Dempster, F. R. Reid, Wm. Ross, Jno. Gillespie, Alex. Blair, Sinclair Scott, B. Noble, Herbert Black, Robert Blair, jr., J. F. Mackay, and W. Thorburn.

Formal authorisation of the Volunteers had been made by General Peel, Secretary for War under Lord Derby's Administration, on 12th May, so that Greenock with its public meeting on 9th June was not far from the front when the movement was officially sanctioned. It must be borne in mind that, for at least five years previous, the question was being kept before the young men of Greenock by Messrs. D. M. Latham, James Stewart, and others.

It was not, however, till 9th September, 1859, that the Greenock Volunteers were recognised by the Secretary of State for War. This was done through the Earl of Glasgow, Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, whom some of us remember at the field days we had with the Militia or the Brigade drills with the Renfrewshire Volunteers at Hawkhead, near Paisley, his county seat. He dressed in the old style—blue coat and brass buttons, white trousers and top hat—and he took a great interest in the county forces, although his language was sometimes more forcible than polite. The following is a copy of the letter:—

“KELBURN, 9th September, 1859.

“I beg to inform you that I have received a letter from the Secretary for War accepting the offer from Greenock of

two companies of Rifle Volunteers, and approving of the gentlemen whom I recommended as officers on the 26th."

The letter goes on to say :

"The maximum establishment of each company will consist of one captain, one ensign, one hundred men of all ranks. The County of Renfrew to have the fourteenth place in the Rifle Volunteer Force of Great Britain."

The officers referred to were elected by the members of the corps, at a meeting held in the Council Hall on 5th July, under the presidency of Mr. Robert Neill as convener, to whom the Volunteers of Greenock owe an everlasting debt of gratitude for the enthusiastic way in which he dry-nursed the movement, although himself a man of delicate health. After being duly proposed, seconded, and voted on by the meeting—which reminds one of the first appointments to the Northern Army in the American Civil War—the following were declared duly elected, and their names forwarded to the Lord-Lieutenant for submission to the War Office :—D. M. Latham, captain ; Francis R. Reid, captain ; D. F. Dempster, lieutenant ; James Stewart, lieutenant ; Stewart Neill, ensign ; and William Ross, ensign.

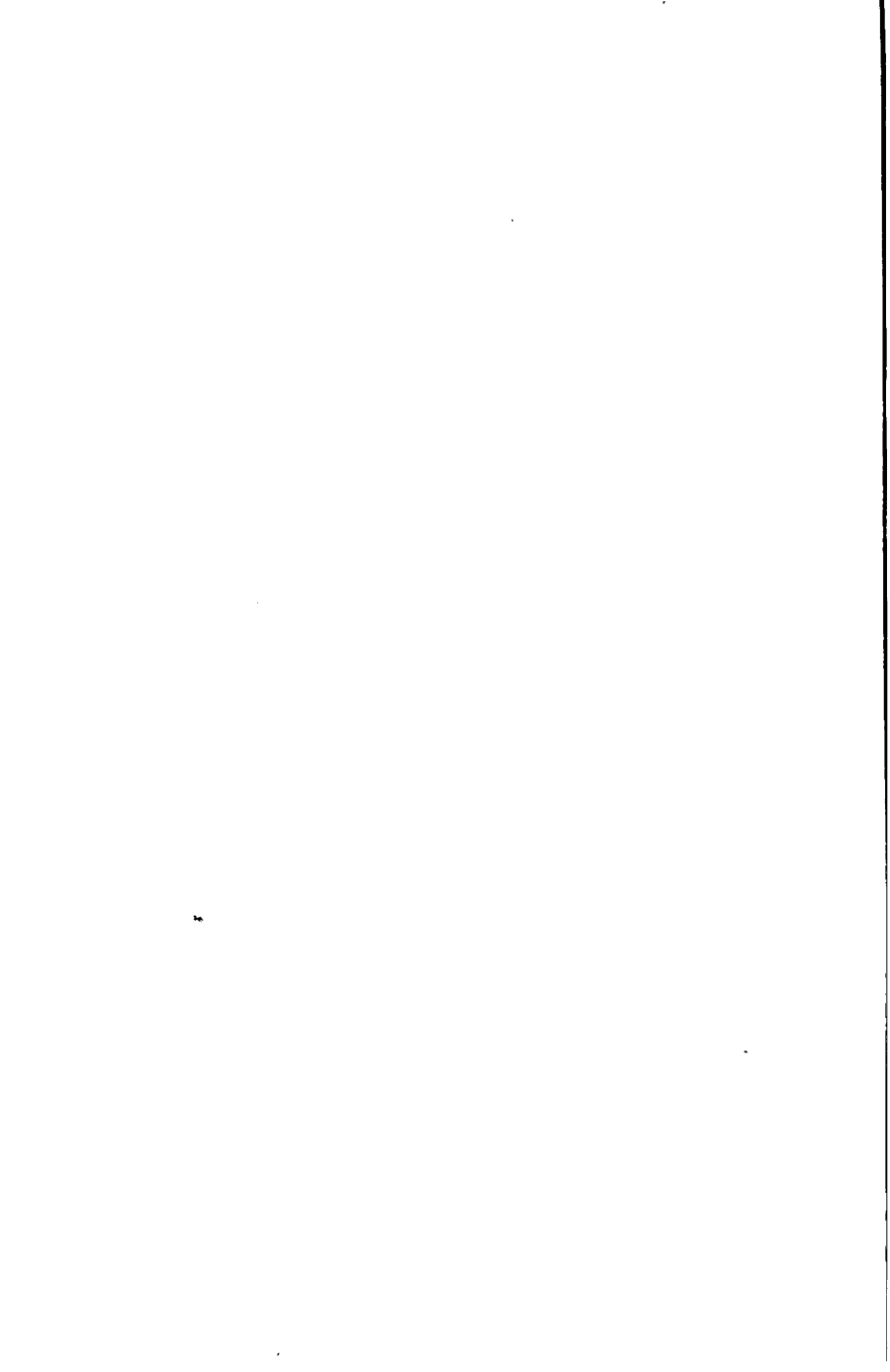
CHAPTER V.

THE first inspection of the Greenock Rifle Corps took place in the Academy Ground on 10th September, 1859. It was a purely local one, conducted by Capt. D. M. Latham, senior officer of the corps, formerly a captain in the Royal Renfrew Militia (now the 4th A. & S. H.), as was also Capt. F. R. Reid. The *Telegraph* of that day referring to the Inspection says:—"Both from the windows of the Academy and from the upper adjoining field, the muster and Inspection were seen by an interested assemblage. The corps mustered about 70, all dressed in uniform. A good many other members were present, but not having yet got their uniforms, they did not "assist" at the Inspection. There were also present Capt. Reid, Lieuts. Dempster and Stewart, Ensigns S. Neill and W. Ross. After the Inspection Capt. Latham, who wore a very handsome uniform, put the corps through various company movements, which were performed with celerity and exactitude." The uniform at that time consisted of dark grey tunic (with Austrian knots) and trows to match, with a broad black braid, also a peaked cap or kepi with bronze bugle in front. The undress was a shell jacket of same material as the full dress, and the arms were the Wilkinson or Aston rifles, with sword bayonets. The officers' ornaments were silver and the sergeants' bronze, very much after the style of the Rifle Brigade. On the 24th September the oath of allegiance was administered to the members, in the presence of Provost Duff, on the parade ground, 102 officers and men replying to the roll-call.

On the 31st October it was agreed to take steps to get artisans to become members of the corps, and accordingly advertisements were inserted in the local papers and in the *Mail* and *Bulletin*, inviting all young men to become members of the corps. This



COL. D. M. LATHAM.



led eventually to the formation of an artisan company, which became No. 4, under Capt. Jas. Miller (of Caird & Co.), and with the other three companies constituted what was long known, before the consolidation of the battalion, as the First Corps, commanded by Major D. M. Latham. The first list of Volunteers went by the name of "The Gallant Hundred and Eight," and it may be interesting to their friends to record their names exactly as they appear in the original Muster Roll-Book of the corps. It is somewhat pathetic to observe that by far the greater number of them have left the scenes of earth, by-and-by to respond "When the roll is called up yonder."

Those marked with an asterisk are, as far as is known, the only survivors of the gallant band :—

- *Wm. Ross.
- *Robert Duff.
- Thomas A. Blair.
- Walter Thorburn.
- Archd. M'Lean.
- Robert M'Gavin.
- Alexr. M. Clark.
- John Clapperton.
- *Benjamin Noble.
- *John Jamieson.
- Wm. Newton.
- John D. Martin.
- Stewart Neill.
- Peter Sinclair.
- *James Scott.
- Robert Blair, Jr.
- Geo. R. Laird.
- Peter Scott.
- John Arbuckle.
- Wm. M'Ilwraith.
- Jas. F. Service.
- Alexr. Morton.
- David M. Latham.
- Patrick M. Black.
- *David Aitken.
- *Duncan Shaw (Wemyss Bay).
- Wm. J. Marshall (Doctor).
- Erskine B. Maclean.
- Thos. Boyle.
- Wm. Wright.
- Duncan Ferguson Dempster.
- *John Neill, Junr.

Daniel Sharp.
 John Long Sicklemore.
 Hugh M. Fyfe.
 Wm. Marshall.
 John Jack.
 Thos. N. Douglas.
 Robert Grieve.
 Jas. Ballantine, Jr.
 Jas. Thompson.
 John B. Crawhall.
 John Cameron, Jr.
 James Newton.
 Hugh B. Crawford.
 *John Anderson (now of Port-Glasgow).
 John Smith.
 Dan. Ferguson.
 Francis Robertson Reid.
 James M'Gavin.
 Allan H. Black.
 *Peter L. Ross.
 Peter M'Kellar.
 Robert Burrell.
 *Duncan M'Intyre (Leith).
 *Alexander Brown.
 John M. Crawford.
 John Gillespie.
 Wm. N. A. Aitken.
 Duncan J. Smith.
 Alexr. Scott.
 Jas. B. Millar.
 John Macdonald.
 *Peter Barr.
 *Dugald Macdougall.
 Duncan M'Donald.
 Allan Park Paton.
 *John P. Maxton.
 Robert Campbell.
 James Dumbreck.
 *Donald Macdonald.
 Robert Muir.
 *Alexr. Ross.
 *John Atkins.
 John W. Crawford.
 John Thompson.
 Joseph Nelson.
 *Duncan M'Gillivray.
 Edward M'Call.
 John Y. Fox.
 Alexr. Macdonald.
 Walter Service, Jr.
 Jas. H. Crawford.
 Malcolm Currie.
 Wm. Shearer.
 *Hugh Speirs.
 Wm. P. Crawford.
 Henry R. Dickie.

Wm. Macfie Martin.
 Thos. Forrest.
 James Warden.
 Alexr. M'Master.
 John Campbell.
 Archd. Maclean.
 Wm. Neilson.
 Geo. Duncan.
 John M'Larty.
 *Hugh Fullarton.
 James Mavis.
 *Robert Johnston,
 Wm. Raff.
 Geo. Raff.
 Wm. Orr.
 Gabriel Wingate.
 Malcolm Service.
 Robert Neill.
 Hugh P. Cumming.
 Wm. F. Booth.

Drilling went on actively in the Academy Grounds at seven o'clock on summer mornings, and also on Saturday afternoons at 3 o'clock. Unlike many modern Territorials, the Volunteers of 1859 were gluttons for drill, with them it was not a question of how few attendances they could put in, but a matter of honour how many they could do, and how they could best qualify themselves in drill so as serve Her Majesty with credit to themselves and their country. By-and-by in consequence of an arrangement with Capt. Scott of the 1st Artillery and also with the Highland Companies, it was agreed to limit the drills of the corps to two evenings per week, viz., Monday and Wednesday, in addition to the Saturday afternoon parades. The Town Hall was a busy scene in these days, as it was occupied every evening getting the raw material into shape. Not only the main hall, but the side rooms and vaults were utilised for recruit drills under the superintendence of the officers and N.C.O.'s; while the rooms below the platform were used as armouries for the rifles borrowed from H.M.S. "Hogue," then a guardship in the harbour. Afterwards, owing to increased numbers, the armouries were the rooms at the end of the

galleries of the Town Hall—rather an awkward place to fetch arms from prior to a morning parade at the Academy Park. This many of us had to do ; but as it was all in the day's work we thought nothing of it.

CHAPTER VI.

ON the 8th December, 1859, a public meeting was held in the New Town Hall, of those agreeable to the formation of an Artillery Corps. Provost Duff again presided, and explained that he had called the meeting in response to a memorial from a large number of working men, who wished to form themselves into an artisan Volunteer Artillery Corps. Messrs Scott & Co.'s men had come forward and enrolled themselves into such a corps; but a more general movement had since begun in town, and 100 additional names had been subscribed, so that now there was the nucleus of three such corps in Greenock.

The speakers at the meeting were Sheriff Tennent, Bailie Grieve, Mr. T. O. Hunter, Mr. David Rowan, Mr. Archd. Dennistoun, Councillor Adam, Mr. David Crawford, and Mr. James Beith, a well-remembered politician, by whom a characteristic speech was made. A very pleasing feature of the meeting was the speech of Capt. F. R. Reid of the Rifle Corps, which had now been six months in existence. He assured the promoters of the Artillery Corps that they had the very best wishes of every officer and member in the Rifle Corps. It is equally agreeable for us to say that, for the past half century, nothing but the best feelings have existed on the part of the two corps toward each other, and that no jarring note has ever been uttered to disturb the harmony which has prevailed so long. As time went on, many exchanges took place between the two corps, and not a few left the ranks of the Rifles to become officers of the Artillery. Among these we may mention such good Volunteers as Capt. John Neill, Capt. James Reid (late M.P.), and Capt. Robert Muir, all of whom would have done credit to the Regular Service.

The next step taken in the Volunteer movement in Greenock was the formation of a Highland Rifle Corps. In compliance with a requisition for the purpose, Provost Duff called a public meeting of the inhabitants for Friday Evening, 9th December, 1859, in the Council Chambers. Bailie Grieve, who was afterwards Provost and Member for the Burgh, was largely responsible for this movement, and under his energetic lead it soon took shape.

Provost Duff had, at the proper time, what he facetiously called his "night with the Highlanders," but one night was not sufficient for the fiery Celts, and at least one other meeting was held, this time in the Sheriff Court Hall. Among those present were Messrs. Grieve, Colin Campbell, M'Clure, Maclean, Weir, Erskine, Ritchie, Ballantine, Kincaid, and M'Farlane. The hall was packed, both area and gallery, as in addition to the patriotic spirit prevailing, the question of kilt versus trews was causing great heart-searching among the Highlanders. Showing how high feeling ran, the *Greenock Telegraph* of 22nd December contained an advertisement in Gaelic, of which the following is a literal translation:—

"The Highland Rifle Corps,

"The Kilt or the Trews.

"Highlanders of Greenock, gather about your brave leader, Collector Colin Campbell. Stand by him and the kilt against the trews. Do not be ashamed to put on the dress that your fathers had of old.

"NISH, NISH, NISH."

It may be remarked that Collector Colin Campbell of the Excise was a well-known and handsome Highland gentleman, who wore the kilt at his daily business, and was a splendid specimen of the genuine Celt, both in "walk and conversation."

Those met in the Sheriff Court Hall were tested as to their willingness to subscribe to their own outfit, and 142 came forward. Twenty-five agreed to



CAPT. JAMES J. GRIEVE.

CHAPTER VII.

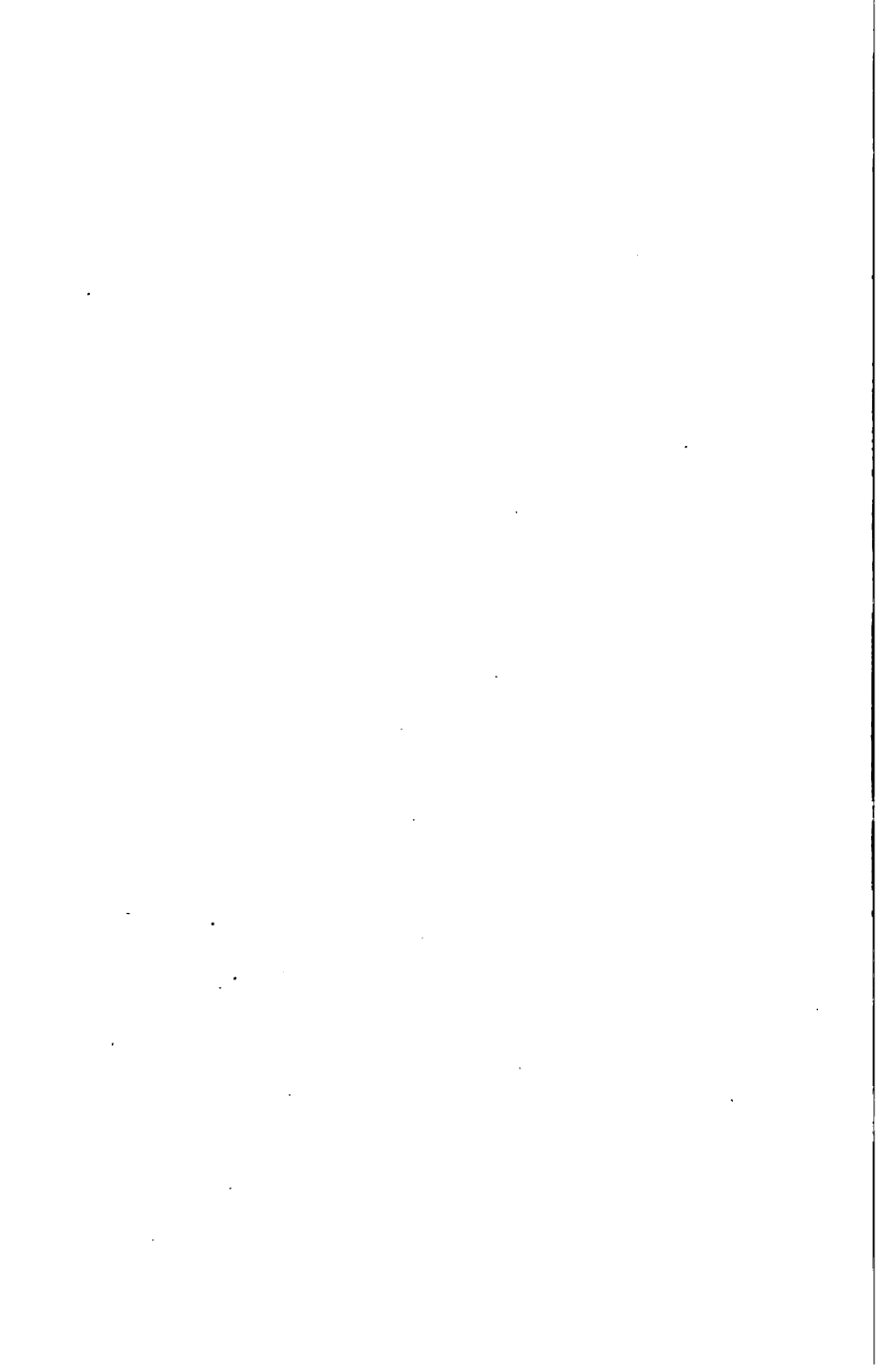
UP till 31st December, 1859, the numbers enrolled in the First Corps totalled 201, and, as far as I can discover, only 35 of these are alive. The names of those who immediately followed the gallant 108 I have taken the liberty of transcribing exactly in the order in which they were enrolled. With the two lists added the public now have before them the names of the 1859 Volunteers in Greenock.

As a rule they were older men than the present day Territorials, and in a different position. Their height and girth were very various, so that "dressing" the company was at times a fine art, although the men were expected to "march like a wall and wheel like a gate."

Drill in extended order was unknown until introduced by the Volunteers themselves on the initiation of Colonel Macdonald (now Lord Kingsburgh) of the Queen's Edinburgh. The absurd system of locking up the rear rank was considered a fine test of drill, while the men were in continual danger of tramping on each other's heels, gazing all the while straight to the front, with their bodies as stiff as a poker. Many other absurdities had been handed down from the days of Marlborough, we suppose; but the fresh and breezy style of the Volunteers soon blew away the conservative cobwebs. And the Army, thanks to the lead of the Volunteers, speedily found itself emancipated from its ancient drill manœuvres, and, as the years rolled on, step by step adopted saner methods of moving men, discarding close formations and squares, and adopting more of the open and light infantry drill. South Africa accentuated these early lessons, and showed an astonished and disappointed country how bad training dies hard, and how antiquated was our mode of



COL. SIR M. R. SHAW STEWART, BART.



manœuvring under fire. Similarly, shooting was done exclusively from the shoulder, at the short distances, and from the knee only beyond 300 yards. At first it was rank heresy to speak of shooting prone; but slowly and persistently the Volunteers and N.R.A. kept pegging away at the new position till it was adopted by the War Office, and became universal throughout the united Services of the Crown.

The last half of the year 1859 was a time of great activity in the annals of Volunteering, and Greenock was in the thick of it. Parties of young men acted as recruiters, and laid hold of their acquaintances on the streets or when returning from their work. *Nolens volens*, they carried them off either to sign the list of Volunteers in a neighbouring shop, or to the Corps drill in the evening. Judging distance was a favourite morning pastime, and Drumfrochar Road, Wellington Park, and the Inverkip Road were kept lively by squads of Volunteers busily engaged in this interesting and useful practice of judging distance between given points, the exact measurement of which had been ascertained beforehand. Football was undreamt of, and Saturday afternoon was sacred to the march-out, whether the weather permitted or not. I have a lively recollection of marching out the Inverkip Road when frost and snow were on the ground. We had no such luxuries as greatcoats at that time, and besides, would they not have dimmed the glory of our brand new tunics with their handsome Austrian knots?

On the 13th January, 1860, a communication was received from the Artisans' Company asking amalgamation with the two companies of Volunteers already formed, with officers and men as they then stood. The amalgamation was thoroughly approved of and welcomed by the corps, but the stipulation as to the officers was point blank declined. Feeling ran very high on the subject, and at a crowded and very

excited meeting held in the Sheriff Court Hall, Lieut. Dugald Campbell—who afterwards was better known as Provost Campbell—was rejected by the meeting, and Ensign M'Intyre appointed in his place, who in turn was succeeded by Colour-Sergt. Andrew Dunn. With the addition of the Artisan Corps there were now four companies in the original corps. These were officered as under :—

- No. 1 Coy.—Capt. D. F. Dempster.
Lieut. R. Burrell,
Ensign John Clapperton.
- No. 2 Coy.—Capt. F. R. Reid.
Lieut. Hugh Speirs.
Ensign Patrick Black.
- No. 3 Coy.—Capt. Stewart Neill.
Lieut. Wm. Ross.
Ensign Wm M'Ilwraith.
- No. 4 Coy.—Capt. James Miller, jr.
Lieut. Dun. M'Intyre.
Ensign Andrew Dunn.

Not only were Volunteers called for, but a serious matter was the sinews of war for clothing the force. An amusing story falls to be recorded of a well-known Town Councillor who, when discussing the finance question on the platform of the Town Hall, boldly said that if he were the treasurer of the burgh, he would unhesitatingly take the money out of the Corporation funds and clothe the whole *corpses* ! The same public-spirited citizen, when being drilled by a Volunteer sergeant, found himself in a squad of one, and when called to attention by the aforesaid sergeant, who did everything according to the Red Book, vigorously responded by shouting back, "What right have you to call me *squad* ?" &c., &c.

The Volunteers of these days wore black stocks, but we fear the skirts of their tunics were sometimes a trifle too long ; while beards and hair were more in evidence than is common nowadays. In this latter connection we may mention that, at a preliminary company inspection, the Officer Commanding, after

remarking on the length of one kilt and the shortness of another, in which dress he was a past master, finally commanded the company to take off their bonnets. This was at once responded to, and all the men stood bareheaded, with bonnets in their hands, as for the chief's benediction. To their great astonishment and amusement he addressed them in sober earnestness, as if their efficiency depended on it: "Noo, lads, you'll need to get your heids cuttit before to-morrow" (Inspection day).

On the 22nd February, 1860, the Lord-Lieutenant of the County intimated that the 1st, 2nd, 13th, and 18th Companies had been sanctioned as the First Corps or Division in Renfrewshire, and on the 27th February the corps was inspected in the New Town Hall by Major A. A. Nelson, Assistant Inspector for Scotland of Rifle Volunteers. Major Nelson was better known afterwards as Brigadier-General Nelson of Jamaica, where he was accused of cruelty to the natives, and for some time the case bulked largely in the public eye. On the 6th March, Dr. W. J. Marshall was appointed Surgeon, Lieut. Ross acting Adjutant till a paid Adjutant was gazetted, and Ensign P. M. Black was made Quartermaster.

The second list of 1859 Volunteers, or, as we may style them, the Gallant 93rd, was as under:—

Hugh Ritchie, jr.
 John B. O'Neill.
 Wm. Lewis.
 David Milne.
 James Campbell.
 Hugh Dick.
 Wm. Blackie Hair.
 A. M. Cameron.
 John Wardrop.
 Norman M'Lean.
 Angus Smith.
 Claud Wylie.
 John Weir.
 James Cochrane.
 John M'Rae.
 Robert Munro.
 George Gilmour.

- *James Whiteford.
John B. Collins.
James M'Pherson.
William Forrest.
John F. Fraser.
John A. Finck.
- *Henry M'Guire.
- *Nicol Campbell.
John Hamilton.
Alexander Borthwick.
William Jackson.
- *William Orr Leitch (Colonel).
Andrew J. Black.
John M'Naught.
John Davidson.
James Fairgrieve.
Hugh M'Gregor.
- *John Symington.
John Niven.
- *Robert M'Arthur.
William Lowe.
W. W. Thomson.
Robert M'Farlan.
James Beith.
- *John Low.
James Benzie.
James Reid (M.P.).
John M'Gillivray.
- *William Lamont (Colonel).
John Gavin Fullerton Patrick.
John Gray.
Peter Ballingall.
William Letham.
- *Robert Rennie.
Duncan M'Alpine.
John A. Stewart.
Alexander Ramsey.
John Stewart (Lieut.-Colonel).
Peter Wright.
William M'Naught.
John Martin.
John Connel.
William Fleming.
John M'Neil.
- *Angus Campbell.
John T. Leitch.
John Wilson.
George H. Marshall.
Charles Duncan.
James Black.
J. C. Paterson.
S. J. Meyer.
John Somerville.
Andrew Munn.
Robert Hendry.
Alexander Campbell.

Duncan Cook.
 William Buchanan.
 Eben. S. Wallace.
 Robert Muir.
 *Dugald M'Eachran.
 Norman M'Pherson.
 Peter Davidson.
 *James M'Cunn.
 Peter Christie.
 Archibald Smith.
 Thomas Kirkwood.
 David Agnew.
 John Turner.
 John Andrew.
 Alexander Shaw.
 Robert M'Vicar, jr.
 Robert M'Lelland.
 William J. Carmichael.
 *John Brymner.
 *John Rodger.

Those marked thus * are still alive.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE great Volunteer movement of fifty years ago sprang from the hearts of the people. It was essentially a Volunteer movement, and all that it required was official recognition and permission to prove itself worthy of the same. No advertising, patronage, or pressure, directly or indirectly, were required. Cook's son and duke's son, countrymen and townsmen, from every village and town in the kingdom, pressed into the ranks at the mere mention of invasion. The Poet-Laureate vigorously blew the "Assembly" in his famous "Form, Riflemen, Form;" and, as if by magic, there sprung up over the kingdom an "exceedingly great army."

The Territorial Force, on the other hand, has been conceived in the fertile brain of Mr. Haldane and licked into shape by the Army Council, who have not been too tender in their treatment of the old Force. Regiments have been deprived of their names and distinctions in the most ruthless manner, and a process of levelling down has been introduced which has driven thousands out of the Force and wounded the amour propre of those who remained. The old system was torn up by the roots, and on the 1st April, 1908, the Territorial Force was planted in its stead, with doubtful success up to the present time. It has not yet taken root properly, very much, we believe, because it has not been a spontaneous movement, but an official one, although with the very best motives and ideal. Probably, in course of time, the situation will be accepted by the people, but if it is not, nothing remains but universal service, which would be a good thing for our rising youth and involuntary patriots.

A great deal of ridicule and sarcasm were levied at the heads of the early Volunteers, thanks to the

cartoons and quips of "Punch," which did not help the movement any. The street boy and the hooligan were only too quick to catch up any parrot cry with which to salute the Volunteer, so that it required some moral courage to appear in the public streets in uniform and alone. The best friend of the Volunteers was Her Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria, who not only encouraged rifle shooting by her magnificent annual gift of the Queen's Prize (£250 in value), but in the month of June, 1860, reviewed the English and Welsh Volunteers in Hyde Park, when what was supposed to be an impossible feat, even with Regular troops, was performed. We refer to the handling of 60,000 men in such a small compass.

The English Review set the Scottish Volunteers on their metal, and instant steps were taken to procure the same gracious favour for the Northern portion of the Kingdom, or, as it is styled in War Office phraseology, North Britain. At a meeting of committee of the Greenock Corps, held on the 20th July, it was resolved that the corps should be present at the review of Scottish Volunteers at Edinburgh on the 7th August.

Previous to this, however, the Volunteers had left no stone unturned (to quote the words of a popular officer) to perfect themselves in drill for any emergency. About the end of July we had a well-remembered and interesting field night in the beautiful grounds of Garvel Park House, which was then tenanted by the Scott family. Of course this was before the construction of the docks and when everything wore a delightful air of rusticity. We mustered at the Academy ground, and were joined at the Town Hall by two batteries of artillery under Captains Robert Blair and John Duff, whence we marched to Garvel Park, followed by immense crowds of admirers. A natural grand stand, consisting of a mound now included in Messrs. Kincaid's works, was densely

packed with spectators. Captain Scott's battery of artillery and the Port-Glasgow Rifles, under Captain Anderson of Highholm, also joined us on the field. The whole was brigaded under Major Latham, while Captains Reid and Scott were mounted as majors. The whole force numbered about 600 men. This was one of the first musters of any importance, in Greenock, of the different corps of Volunteers.

It was followed by a sham fight at Fort Matilda, on the 27th July, when the Fort was gallantly stormed and retaken. What led to this successful fight was the very friendly feeling shown to the Volunteers by Captain Wilmot, C.B., of H.M. Sanspareil, then lying at the Tail-of-the-Bank. The muster was a very large one, and the seamen and marines were landed from the warship in boats, to represent an enemy attacking the Fort. This they did in fine style and with the true dash of the British sailor, but though successful in their attack, they soon found that the Volunteers were "foemen worthy of their steel," and eventually the honours of war fell to the latter. This was said to be the first occasion on which Regulars and Volunteers had acted together, and so delighted was Captain Wilmot with the success of the operations that he published a letter addressed to Captain F. R. Reid eulogising the conduct and drill of the Volunteers as far beyond anything he ever expected to see. As such a sham fight was a great novelty at that time, there was an immense crowd, on land, watching the operations, while on the water was quite a fleet of sailing yachts, among the rest being that of Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, who was cruising in the neighbourhood of the Fort.

Later on, just the week before the Royal Review, Captain Wilmot, with the officers and men of the Sanspareil, again favoured the Volunteers with their appearance and co-operation at the Battery Park. This time it was for parade purposes, and a rehearsal

of the movements which might be expected at Edinburgh. There was a splendid muster of about 1,200 officers and men of all ranks, comprising seamen, marines, and volunteers. Colonel Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart was in command, attended by Captain Sicklemore, R.N., as mounted orderly. Captain Parsons, of the Renfrewshire Militia, who was a smart young officer and a relative of Mr. John Scott, acted as Adjutant. Column movements, advancing and retiring in line, wheeling, marching in fours, and saluting, constituted the chief items of drill, and were considered to be smartly performed. A little amusement was provided at the close of the drill in the way of foot and hurdle races, in which all "arms" took part.

Sir Michael was a picture on horseback as he appeared on parade, either with his roan or his white-faced chestnut. He had a good seat, and was a perfect horseman. The whole battalion felt proud to have such a Commanding Officer. He was every inch a gentleman, and he left an impression on the battalion which it never lost.

The battalion was equally fortunate in having such an officer at its head as Major, afterwards Colonel, David Macduff Latham. The son of a soldier, he was one to his finger tips—tall, erect, and with a handsome, soldierly bearing. He was born to command, yet the kindest of men, and we are certain no officer in the Regular Army knew the Red Book better than he. When on a rare occasion he did make a slip in his word of command he did not slur it over, as the manner of some men is, but pulled himself up by the familiar correction, "my mistake, gentlemen." His retiral from command after long and faithful service was a great blow to the battalion, but it may be said of it as of Tennyson's "Brook," "Men may come and men may go, but I go on for ever." (Let us devoutly hope so).

A different type of man from either was Captain John Long Sicklemore, R.N., of the Revenue cruiser. He was a unique character. Although an Englishman, he delighted in wearing the kilt on all possible occasions, and was no disgrace to it. His well knit figure, adorned by a flowing white beard, made him a "remarkable" figure on the streets of Greenock. He had a capable little band, with a black drummer, on board his ship, which, before the days of Esplanade Concerts, gave nightly performances to the townspeople at the West Harbour. At the inception of the Volunteer movement he was not slow to give advice, and threw himself *con amore* into every department of corps work from Bugle Major to Hon. Member. Like the service he belonged to he had a good deal of fighting in him, but over that we shall draw the veil. Old Volunteers well remember "Sickie," as he was familiarly called, and we recall his memory as his personality was considerable in these olden times. Yet he was not for a moment to be compared to such typical officers as Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart and Colonel David Macduff Latham.

CHAPTER IX.

7TH August, 1860, was a red-letter day in the history of the Scottish Volunteers. It had been long anticipated, and, as we have already shown, locally prepared for. All that was wanted was the smile of Her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria the Good, and it was felt that when that was accorded an impetus would be given to the patriotic movement which would send it on a career of progress and efficiency. The weather was the only doubtful factor in the success of the day's pageant, but on this occasion the Fates were propitious, and Jupiter Pluvius stayed his hand. The hour of muster was 8.30 a.m., at Cathcart Square; but long before that time Volunteers were seen hurrying to the rendezvous, rifle in hand, with well-filled haversacks, eager to enter on the proceedings of a day big with, if not Fate, at anyrate excitement and new experiences. As early as 7 a.m. Cathcart Square had been taken possession of by companies of Rifles and Artillery from Campbeltown, Dunoon, Largs, Rosneath, and Rothesay, and the streets assumed the appearance of a garrison city. The unwonted spectacle brought groups of sober citizens from all parts of the town to give the Volunteers a hearty send-off. At last the order was given—"Fours right, by successive companies, No. 1 to the front," and under command of Major Latham the whole Force, to the number of 1,120 men, entrained at the old Cathcart Street platform, in a huge train of 29 carriages.

Owing to the great traffic on the line, progress was somewhat slow, and a long halt was made at Carstairs, which afforded considerable opportunity for light infantry manœuvring by the younger portion of the Home Guards. It was 12.20 before we arrived in Edinburgh, and as we were considerably behind time

we were immediately marched to the Queen's Park, which for the day was the Volunteers' Champs de Mars. The clouds of dust in Princes Street were a foretaste of what we were to receive as the day advanced.

The seniority of the Greenock Rifles was acknowledged by their having the honour to lead the Second Division, commanded by Major-General Cameron. The Brigadier was Colonel Hamilton, C.B., and the Brigade Major, Major Bailey, R.E. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, who had been gazetted Lieutenant-Colonel on the 1st August, rode at the head of the Renfrewshire Volunteers, but the Greenock Battalion was under the command of Major D. M. Latham; while, as if in anticipation of the recent Territorial change, the 2nd Battalion was composed of the 2nd and 3rd Administrative Battalions Renfrew Volunteers, and commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Graham, one of the stalwarts in the County Force. The 3rd Battalion in the Brigade consisted of eight Ayrshire companies, commanded by Captain Hay Boyd, of Townend. The Greenock Artillery formed portion of the 1st Battalion of the 2nd Artillery Brigade, and was commanded by Captain John Scott; the other Batteries being 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Ayrshire, 1st and 3rd Argyll, 1st Wigtown, and 1st and 2nd Dumbarton. Greenock had thus the honour of leading both in the Artillery and the Infantry, and in each case a local officer was in command.

Colonel M'Murdo, whose was the real master-hand regulating the whole day's proceedings, had issued most carefully drawn up orders, embracing the minutest details, for the Review, so that every corps fell into its place, and was ready for the word of command. But for the railway company, everything would have been punctual to the minute, or, shall we say, as the Queen? The long wait was lightened somewhat by the novelty and the beauty of the surroundings—the inevitable dog, the occasional

fainting of a comrade, the dismounted trooper, the frantic gallopers, and the many little accidents and incidents which happen wherever there is a great concourse of people such as was assembled in front of Arthur's Seat. The number of minor incidents which occurred at the Review reminds one of the old lady who, when she saw the wounded fall at a field day of the Greenock Volunteers, exclaimed to a friend: "Sham fecht! Did I no' tell ye it would come to earnest at last."

About 4 o'clock Her Majesty, with a brilliant cortege and staff, drove on to the field, and was received with a Royal salute from the 20,000 Volunteers on parade, every man looking straight to his front, and wearying for the time when the Queen would pass his battalion. Being in the front rank of No. 1 Company, we had an excellent opportunity of seeing Her Majesty for the first time, as she slowly passed along the lines, carefully inspecting each corps as best she could between the tornadoes of dust which blew across the field.

The Inspection over, the Royal party returned to the saluting base, in front of the grand stand, when the March Past began, headed by the Fife Light Horse (now, alas! extinct), followed by the Artillery, the Engineers, and the Rifle Volunteers. The local men did wonders. The Artillery, headed by Captain Scott, were conspicuous for their martial bearing, and as they went swinging past the grand stand were greeted with loud cheers. When the Rifles, under Major Latham, passed the Standard, there were loud cries of "Admirable!" "Well done, Renfrewshire!" "Bravo, Renfrewshire!" and the Duke of Buccleuch, who was in attendance on Her Majesty, galloped after Sir Michael and warmly congratulated him on the appearance and bearing of his men. By this time there was quite a sirocco of dust on the field, but we boldly marched on, seeing nothing, but keeping the

touch with rifles at the shoulder till we passed through the ordeal, and emerged like a battalion of coal-heavers. Certainly we were a uniform colour, as both faces and clothing were decidedly grey.

The pipers, headed by Pipe-Major Cameron, of the 1st Corps, played while passing Her Majesty, in obedience to special command, and the Highland companies' uniform was said to be the most tasteful on the field. Every one thought his own county or corps was the best, so all were pleased. As Her Majesty left the ground, after the troops had advanced in line and given her a Royal salute, the pent-up feeling of the immense concourse of people on hill, and crag, and plain, burst into a round of cheering, like the waves of a mighty sea, which very appropriately brought the historic pageant to a close. Unaccustomed to such a thunder of hurrahs, many of the chargers stampeded with their riders, and joined the great throng following the Queen's carriage as she passed out of the Holyrood gate. Six o'clock saw the first Royal Review at an end, and in rapid succession, according to printed orders, the Greenock Volunteers disengaged to the right front, and moved by the Old London Road entrance, following the Artillery, to Scotland Street Station.

The Greenock Artillery mustered 172 of all ranks, and were officered as under :—

- 1st Renfrewshire—John Scott, Captain.
Robert Sinclair Scott, 1st Lieutenant.
Robert M'Bride, 2nd Lieutenant.
- 2nd Renfrewshire—Robert Blair, Captain.
J. R. Hill, 1st Lieutenant.
Hugh Cuthbert, 2nd Lieutenant.
- 3rd Renfrewshire—John Duff, Captain.
Duncan M'Callum, 1st Lieutenant.
John Neill, 2nd Lieutenant.

Of these, Messrs. Hugh Cuthbert and John Neill are the only survivors.

The 1st Battalion of the Renfrewshire Rifles had



CAPT. COLIN CAMPBELL.

535 officers and men on parade. The officers were :—

- Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Colonel.
 D. M. Latham, Major.
 W. J. Marshall, Surgeon.
 F. W. Parsons, Captain, Acting-Adjutant.
- No. 1 Company—D. F. Dempster, Captain.
 Robert Burrell, Lieutenant.
 John Clapperton, Ensign.
- No. 2 Company—*William Ross, Lieutenant-Commanding.
 *Hugh Speirs, Lieutenant.
 Patrick M. Black, Ensign.
- No. 3 Company—Stewart Neill, Captain.
 Wm. M'Ilwraith, Ensign.
- No. 4 Company—James Miller, jun., Captain.
 *Duncan Macintyre, Lieutenant.
 Andrew Dunn, Ensign.
- No. 5 Company, Port-Glasgow—James Anderson, Captain.
 James Dunbar, Lieutenant.
 D. Gilkison, Ensign.
- No. 10 Company, Highlanders—James J. Grieve, Captain.
 John Rennie, Lieutenant.
 *J. G. Kincaid, Ensign.
- No. 11 Company, Highlanders—Colin Campbell, Captain.
 Thomas Ballantine, Lieutenant.
 John Erskine, Ensign.
- No. 22 Company, Gourrock—Duncan Darroch, jun., Lieutenant-Commanding.
 J. Munsie, Ensign.

Those marked thus * are still alive.

Without committing ourselves as to the number of "Edinburgh reviewers" still to the fore, we are safe in saying that of the officers we know, Colonels Ross, Leitch, and Lamont; Lieuts. Macintyre and Speirs, and Ensign J. G. Kincaid are alive and well; and of the other ranks Messrs. Henry M'Guire, Nicol Campbell, John Symington, Dugald M'Dougall, James Parkhill, John Lennox, Finlay D. Morrison, James Scott, Duncan Shaw, Alex. Ross, Hugh Fullarton, John Low, John Jamieson, S. Shortridge, Duncan M'Gillivray, Alex. Brown, Hector M. Muir, Peter L. Ross, James M'Cunn, Robert Rennie, Angus Campbell, D. M'Eachran, John Rodger, John Brymner, Jas. Whiteford, James Sharp, John Crichton, A. D. M'Gregor, Jas. K. Rae, Kenneth M'Donald, and Matthew Cameron, are

still able to fall in again on the sound of the "Assembly."

The only Colour-Sergeant now alive is that sturdy nonagenarian, John Finlayson, of Gourrock, whom we met recently walking home from Greenock, and wearing his years lightly. He tells us that of his company he only knows of other seven, beside himself, who can answer the roll-call, viz. :—J. S. Kerr, Jas. M'Taggart, David Tweedale, Donald Macfarlan, Hugh Barclay, Jas. M'Loughlin, and John Brown. The old soldier was left in charge of his company at the railway station on the return journey after the Royal Review. As they were without food, yet appeared to be in the best of "spirits," he wondered what the cause could be, till he discovered that, one by one, they had dropped over the windows of the railway carriages, on the off-side, and had refreshed the inner man by a visit to a neighbouring "coaling station."

The Volunteers left Edinburgh at 9.25, and arrived in Greenock at the early hour of 3 a.m., hungry as hawks and black as crows. The townspeople who had gone as sightseers, entrained at midnight, and arrived home when the bell was ringing six o'clock. The Dumbarton, Rothesay, and Rosneath men left by steamer for their respective destinations, while the Gourrock Company drove home in Clark's omnibus.

Before dismissing the men at Cathcart Square, Major Latham gave a brief, soldierly address, and thanked them for their behaviour on such a trying day. He said that Her Majesty was visibly affected by what she saw of her loyal and patriotic people, and concluded by asking for "three ringing cheers for the Queen, God bless her," which were heartily given, as well as a like compliment to himself. "The prisoners heard them," as the jail in Bank Street was then in occupation. We then, as is said in another place,

“went to our several places of abode” to woo
“Nature’s sweet restorer, balmy sleep,” if that were
possible ; and, for days and years to come, to talk of
our experiences and hardships at the Royal Scottish
Review of 1860.

CHAPTER X.

THE voluntary assessment which was so cordially agreed to by the Town Council for the equipment and support of the Rifle Volunteers, unfortunately was not the success it ought to have been; but so far as it went, it was a graceful act on the part of the townspeople. It led to a very pretty piece of correspondence on the part of the respective Commanding officers, which might have been a lesson to the Churches in later years and saved a vast amount of cash and kudos to the body ecclesiastical. In many ways the Volunteers have led the way to the Church; but we need not condescend to details. Major Latham, who was a high-toned gentleman, and the soul of honour, wrote to Captain John Scott commanding the Artillery, in the following terms:—

“Greenock, 23rd August, 1860.

“My Dear Sir,—The voluntary assessment levied on behalf of the funds of the Greenock Rifle Corps, amounting to £164 7s 4d, has been paid to me by the Town Chamberlain to day, and at a meeting of the committee since held I have been authorised to divide the sum equally between the Greenock Artillery Companies, the Highland Rifles, and ourselves. Although the Greenock Rifle Corps was the only body of Volunteers in existence here at the time the assessment was proposed, the committee cannot but feel that had the Highland and Artillery Companies been organised at an earlier period they would have been entitled to their just share of the amount so raised. I only regret that the balance handed to us by the Magistrates now to be divided is so much less than at one time we had reason to expect. I need scarcely add that our sincere desire must always be to live on terms of good fellowship with all brother Volunteers, especially those of our own town. Allow me, then, to hand you herewith £54 15s 10d, being one-third of the above sum, and to beg your acceptance of it on behalf of the Artillery Companies.—Believe me to be, sir, your obedient servant,

D. M. LATHAM.”



COL. JOHN SCOTT.

To which Captain Scott of the Artillery replied :

“Garvel Park,
Greenock, 24th August, 1860.

“My Dear Sir,—I feel much obliged by your letter of 23rd enclosing £54 15s 10d, and the more especially from the handsome manner in which your committee has acted in reference to the distribution of the amount of voluntary assessment. Speaking for myself, I can assure you that I never contemplated sharing with your corps any of the fund, and it will therefore afford me very great pleasure indeed to be the medium of communicating to the officers and members of the Artillery Volunteer Corps the very liberal view you have taken of your duty in reference to the distribution of the fund. Allow me, therefore, on behalf of my brother officers and volunteers, to thank you very sincerely and to assure you that we trust always to remain on the best of terms with all the Volunteer Corps of the district, and more especially with that which you have the honour of commanding, and we shall ever remember your conduct on this occasion as the best proof of the sincerity of the expression you have been good enough to convey in your letter of yesterday.—Believe me to be, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN SCOTT, Yst.”

A similar letter having been addressed by Captain Latham to Captain J. J. Grieve, the following is his reply :—

“My Dear Sir,—In acknowledging receipt of your esteemed note of yesterday, covering £54 15s 10d, being one-third of the voluntary assessment raised in Greenock in aid of the Volunteer Rifles, allow me to say that I am very sensible of the handsome conduct of yourself and the 1st Greenock Rifles in allowing the Highland Companies to participate in the fund which was always considered as exclusively belonging to your corps, who were the first to stem the difficulties of organisation, and when the movement was not so popular nor so well understood. As the division entirely emanates from you, I cheerfully accept the sum you have sent, and reciprocate the feelings you express, that the best possible understanding and good fellowship should exist between Volunteers, and particularly those of our own town.—Believe me, etc., etc.,

JAS. J. GRIEVE.”

CHAPTER XI.

ABOUT this time began the great national movement for the liberation of Italy, under the leadership of Giuseppe Garibaldi, and a local committee was formed in Greenock to assist in providing the sinews of war. This led to several of the young bloods among the Volunteers offering their services to fight for the freedom of a united Italy. If we remember right, the Ruffs (2), Service, and Irvine, with perhaps another, left home for this purpose, but did not get the length of active service. Major Latham administered on parade a severe rebuke to them, and all others who would take part in any such Quixotic enterprise. So the tide of recruiting for a foreign enterprise soon turned.

On the 22nd December, 1860, there was a great parade, at the Academy Park, on the occasion of the presentation of a silver bugle to the battalion by the Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart of Ardgowan. About 600 officers and men were on parade, on that famous Saturday, under the command of Colonel Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, M.P. A stand, or platform, stood on the west side of the ground, and was occupied by Lady Octavia and Captain J. A. Shaw Stewart, Major and Mrs. Darroch, Mrs. and Miss Grieve, and Captain Macdonald of H.M.S. Hogue, to whom we were indebted for the loan of rifles. Lady Octavia herself made the presentation in a very interesting little speech, eulogising the services of the Volunteers, and promising them the sympathy and encouragement of the fair sex as well as of all right thinking citizens. Sir Michael accepted the bugle from her Ladyship's hands, and made a soldier-like reply, the brevity of which was much appreciated, as the weather was both foggy and cold. He then handed the bugle to the Hon. Bugle Major, Captain Sicklemore, R.N., who, in

turn, gave it to Bandmaster Gould, who sounded the "Assembly," "Salute," and "Close." Thereafter the battalion reformed line from square, saluted, then formed fours and marched to the Town Hall.

The hall was specially decorated for the occasion by Mr. Allison, the Master of Works; but what the Volunteers were most interested in were the preparations made by the chief of the kitchen, Mr. Mackay. When the word of command was given, the charge of the gallant 600 was a sight never to be forgotten. Balaclava was not in it. Some blood was spilt through an accident, and Dr. Marshall's services were for the first time called into requisition, and successfully too.

The hall was packed from "floor to ceiling," and a distinguished party graced the platform. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart presided, and gave a stirring yet genial address, reminding the men that they must keep their powder dry and always maintain themselves in a state of efficiency, and that they need not expect the Gentleman across the Channel to send them an intimation as to what Saturday afternoon he would descend on our coasts. One of the best friends of the Volunteers in Greenock was the then Sheriff-Substitute, H. L. Tennent, whose tall and swanky figure was so well known at that time. A distinguished yachtsman and traveller, he at once threw himself into the patriotic movement, and no public gathering was complete without the Sheriff. On this occasion he excelled himself and roused his audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm.

But perhaps the most interesting speech of the evening was that of Mr. Murray Dunlop, M.P. for Greenock (and Scotland), whose words were always fitly chosen, like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." There were a ring and a pathos about them which always touched a tender chord. In the course of his

speech he said that the present occasion reminded him of the old Volunteers commanded by his father; but he trusted they would never be disbanded, but be a permanent force in the defence of the country. Up till this present his wishes have been fulfilled, but we desire them recorded and burned into the hearts of the people, as there is always a danger that, after a prolonged peace, a state of unpreparedness will set in. Ease and pleasure-seeking assert the supremacy, and time-serving statesmen trim their sails to suit their party or the people.

The handsome silver bugle, which is only used on State occasions, still remains in the safe custody of the battalion. On the evening of its presentation, however, the Bugle-Major betrayed his trust, and for two or three days there were lamentation and woe, for the much prized bugle had disappeared. After the Town Hall dinner the Bugle-Major, with some kindred spirits, had repaired to the "White Hart" to "wet his whistle." While he was engaged in this interesting but unnecessary operation some practical joker quietly annexed the bugle, so that, for the week-end at least, it remained out of the custody of Captain John L. Sicklemore. But "all's well that ends well." After a due season of heart searching and suspense, the silver bugle was in evidence on parade, having been as quietly returned by the light-fingered Volunteer.

CHAPTER XII.

AS voluntary assessments and private munificence could not be relied on for the support of the Volunteers, in 1861 an agitation began throughout the country calling on Government to give a Capitation Grant, based on efficiency, so that the Force might be put on a proper permanent footing. This was finally acceded to. A grant of 30s per man if qualified in musketry, and 20s if otherwise, was given to all corps, and for the time being satisfied the financial wants of the Volunteers. By-and-by this amount was increased by 5s per man, and by special proficiency grants to officers and sergeants.

This wrought out remarkably well where the funds were properly and economically administered by the commanding officers. While the responsibility was very great, and the work correspondingly so, still a certain amount of latitude in expenditure was allowed, which was an encouragement to economical corps. The system on the whole wrought fairly well.

Now the funds are in the hands of County Territorial Associations, and a strict supervision is exercised on every item of expenditure, while the amount allowed per battalion for administrative purposes is much too small. Consequently there is no inducement to commanding officers to save within their limit; but, on the contrary, a disposition to spend up to their maximum grant, as no credit is given them for any sum unexpended. A combination of the old and the new systems would be the best arrangement; a larger grant should be given, and every commanding officer should have a free hand in the matter of expenditure, and should be allowed to benefit by his economy and superior business management, subject to proper supervision, and provided

always that his command is kept in a proper state of efficiency.

The Queen's Birthday was loyally celebrated 50 years ago, and on 24th May, 1861, at 10 a.m., the Rifles and Celts paraded at George Square, while the three companies of Artillery mustered at the Town Hall. The whole, under command of Colonel Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, marched to Fort Matilda, where the Artillery fired a Royal salute of 21 guns, and the Rifles a feu de joie. The entire force thereafter gave a Royal salute in line and marched past the Commanding Officer. After that the Artillery repaired to the Fort for big gun practice, and the Rifles continued in the Battery Park, where they engaged in skirmishing and other movements, volley firing by companies in line, etc.

We all afterwards marched back to Cathcart Square, followed by a great crowd of admirers, as it was a general holiday. A spirit of sociality and camaraderie thereafter prevailed, and the officers dined with Sir Michael in the old Tontine Hotel. The non-commissioned officers and men of Nos. 1 and 2 Companies dined in the White Hart, while the 3rd Company entertained its officers in the Royal Hotel. However, dining is not Volunteering, and happy is that corps which has no confidence in what has been called the "knife and fork business" but relies for its efficiency on the pluck and stamina of its members. Some amusing stories could be told of enthusiastic dinners followed by very emaciated musters next day.

Rifle shooting in these days was a fine art to most of us, and drill was considered the *summum bonum* of Volunteering. However, by the generosity of the Lord-Lieutenant, the Earl of Glasgow, a start was given to rifle shooting by the presentation of a handsome silver medal to each Renfrewshire Battalion, and a gold medal for competition by the

Brigade. The first battalion competition took place on 26th October, 1861, and was limited to five representatives from each company. The fortunate prize medallist on this occasion was a fine young recruit of the Highland Corps, Private John Brown, with a score of 14 points out of 12 shots at 200, 400, and 600 yards. Of course, the weather was to blame, and probably there was a fish-tail wind. However, John Brown was the first medallist in the battalion, and for many years fought for its honour and success at the rifle range. We are happy to say that his eye is still undimmed, and his natural force unabated, showing that drill and rifle shooting are no mean factor in a man's bodily health and vigour.

The first brigade match took place at Greenock on 30th November, 1861, and was not a brilliant performance by any means. Each battalion was represented by ten men, who fired 12 rounds at 200, 400, and 600 yards. Only two of the competitors hit the target every shot, and the redoubtable John Clews, the ploughman, afterwards Queen's Prizeman, was top scorer with 16 points. The 3rd Battalion won the gold medal, as it did for many years thereafter. It was ten years before the 1st Battalion had a look in. Both of these competitions have been of great value to rifle shooting in the battalion and in the county. Many have been encouraged, by their success gained locally, to go farther afield. So that, from a very early date, the 1st Renfrew has been represented in the prize-lists of Wimbledon and Bisley by the well-known names of MacEachran, Park, J. K. Stewart, M'Isaac, R. D. Muir, Montgomery, the Brothers Caldwell, Macfie, Macnab, Kirk, Adam, Mackay, Graham, and Peter Rae.

CHAPTER XIII.

EARLY in December of 1861, during the American Civil War, occurred the "Trent affair," when Mason and Sliddell, the Southern envoys, were forcibly taken possession of from on board the British vessel Trent by a Northern cruiser. Feeling ran very strong in this country, on what was regarded as a very high-handed act of the American cruiser. For a time it looked as if war was imminent, but wiser counsels prevailed, and peace was unbroken. The Volunteers, locally at any rate, shared the national feeling, and held a meeting to volunteer for active service, which, we believe, was the first of the kind in the kingdom. The Sheriff Court Hall was crowded, and simultaneous meetings were held by the Artillery, the Port-Glasgow, and the Gourock Companies. The motion, which was unanimously adopted, amid great cheering after a spirited speech by Major Latham, runs as follows:—"In the event of the recent outrage on the British flag being followed by a war between Great Britain and the Northern States of America, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the 1st Ad. Batt. Renfrewshire Rifle Volunteers (and 3 companies Artillery) unanimously resolve to place their services at the disposal of Her Majesty for the discharge of any duties which may be assigned to them in the defence and protection of the country."

This offer of service was forwarded, through Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, for presentation to the Government, who instructed Sir George Cornwall Lewis, the historian, who was then Secretary for War, to reply, which he did, in the following terms, to the Lord-Lieutenant:—

"War Office, 1st January, 1862.

My Lord,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 24th ult. containing an offer

of active service from the 1st Battalion, R.R.V., and, in reply, to inform you that, while I fully appreciate the zeal and patriotic spirit which have prompted the members of the corps to make such an offer, I must at present decline to avail myself of it. I have to add that if even the country were at war the services of the corps could only be accepted under the provisions of the Act 44, George III., cap. 44.—I have the honour to be, sir, your obedient servant,

GEORGE CORNEWALL LEWIS."

Thus ended this warlike episode, and we little imagined that, in the next century, we should see our successors and our sons volunteering by the hundred, animated by the same patriotic spirit, and prepared to lay down their lives (as not a few of them did) in honour of "the flag which has braved a thousand years the battle and the breeze."

CHAPTER XIV

SHAM FIGHT AT POLLOK.

NEXT to the Edinburgh Review, the greatest event in the history of the Greenock Volunteers was the sham fight at Pollok, on 28th September, 1861. Unfortunately for them it turned out pretty much of a fiasco. Conceived on a very extensive scale, the field day turned out a partial failure, not from any fault of the Volunteers, but solely owing to defective police arrangements and the conduct of the general public, who, in their anxiety to see all that was to be seen, simply cast aside all sense of decorum and decency, and wandered at their sweet will all over the field. The Greenock men arrived on the ground, in fine style, about ten o'clock, and formed line of contiguous columns with the 76th Regiment, (being on their left), other regiments forming up again on our left. At two o'clock we were inspected by the General Officer Commanding. After that the 3rd Renfrew was sent forward in skirmishing order, and soon opened fire. After waiting some little time, the 76th Regiment and the 1st Renfrew formed line and halted in rear of the grand stand, where we were ordered to lie down and wait—a most difficult part of a soldier's duty to perform. We did it well, and waited patiently for hours, in a prone position, doing and seeing nothing. In the end we were ordered out, but halted far in rear of the battalions in reserve, only to see the wind-up, without firing a shot. Great dissatisfaction pervaded all ranks, but as our officers were in no way to blame for the untoward incident it was accepted as the "fortune of war," and all feeling soon died away.

A well-remembered figure at the 1860 Royal Review was the Marquis of Breadalbane, on a

Highland pony, riding at the head of his kilted Highlanders. When halted, their position was quite close to the Greenock battalion, so in spare moments the men of both battalions fraternised. A Perthshire Highlander, proud of his commanding officer, was heard saying, *inter alia*, to a Greenock Highlander: "Do you see yon officer? That's oor Colonel, the Marquis of Breadalbane;" to which the Greenock Highlander promptly and proudly replied: "And do you see yon officer? That's oor Captain, Colin Campbell." The man from Perthshire was awe-struck for the moment as for the first time he looked on him whom he understood to be Sir Colin Campbell of Crimean fame.

Among the horses which stampeded when the Queen left the Review ground was that of our beloved Commanding Officer, Major Latham, and the greatest concern was felt by the men as to his fate. It was feared that, like many more, he was *hors de combat*; but as he pluckily kept his seat, and came back pale, but calm, to ride at the head of his battalion, the greatest delight was experienced by all ranks at his safety. A regiment is like a clan, with its Colonel for its Chief, and the companies are so many septs with the Captains as sub-Chiefs, so that when properly commanded a feeling of loyalty and almost affection springs up towards their leaders, and the men will do and dare almost anything in their service.

Not long afterwards the horse incident was recalled at a church parade, when the venerable chaplain, the Rev. Dr. M'Culloch, in measured tones and slow, read out the Psalm:—

"An horse for preservation
Is a deceitful thing,
And by the greatness of his strength
Can no deliverance bring."

The accident was so fresh in the memories of many present that, despite the solemnity of the occasion, many knowing glances were exchanged, and not a few nudgings were indulged in, on account of the coincidence.



REV. DR. J. M. MCCULLOCH.



REV. DR. HUGH MACMILLAN.



REV. W. W. BEVERIDGE.

CHAPTER XV.

THE Greenock Volunteers have all along been singularly fortunate in their chaplains. The first one, the Rev. Dr. James Melville M'Culloch, of the West Parish, was well known as an educationist of the best type, and his "Course of Reading" was a standard work in the schools for generations. He was a clergyman of the old school, white-haired and handsome, stately and reverend in his mien, and as he stood with gloved hands declaring the whole counsel of God, he made an impression on one's mental retina never to be forgotten. His Volunteer sermons were much appreciated, not only in Greenock, but by the military authorities in London. One in particular was on the text: "He (David) bade them teach the children the use of the bow," and in a stirring discourse he declared in favour of the Volunteer movement as healthful and moral, bringing about a mingling of the classes, and strongly argued for the necessity of its permanence and its practical support by the nation.

On his lamented decease an equally distinguished man, the Rev. Dr. Hugh Macmillan, of the Free West Church, was appointed in his place as Acting Chaplain. The reverend doctor was a distinguished scholar, divine, and naturalist, a patriotic Highlander, and an enthusiastic Volunteer. Like all great and good men, he was one of the humblest, and one whose acquaintance it was an education and a privilege to enjoy. The church parades in which he took the leading part, especially those during the dark days of the South African War, were an inspiration, and on his retiral from the ministry it was the privilege of the writer to present him with a silver regimental brooch as a token of the affection entertained for him by both officers and men. The old man eloquent was for the

time being incapable of expressing himself, and it was touching in the extreme to see how keenly he felt the kindness of his comrades of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Very curiously, the next Senior Chaplain, Lieut.-Colonel Rev. W. W. Beveridge, was drawn from the United Presbyterian Church. A distinguished athlete, who had been hundred yards and quarter-mile champion of Scotland, and an International football player, Mr. Beveridge found his vocation when he was gazetted twenty years ago. A man *sui generis*, an ardent temperance spirit, with strong athletic and social instincts, in these respects he has filled up the lack of service on the part of his worthy predecessors. No chaplain has ever had such a hold of the men in the battalion. A muscular Christian, he exemplifies what he preaches. As he has been present at all its camps and presided at all its sports, as well as looked after the comfort of the men in the Temperance Tent, both by night and day, since his appointment, he has been a power for good and God in the battalion.

At the end of the year 1861, a joint bazaar by the Artillery and the Rifles was projected, but it was not till the month of April, 1862, that the scheme was carried out, thanks to the energy of the ladies of Greenock, who have always been the true friends of the Volunteers, and by bugle, banner, bazaar, and challenge shield, "have done what they could" to help on the good cause. There were six stalls at this bazaar, presided over as under :—

1. Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart.
2. Mrs. John Duff.
3. Mrs. C. C. Scott and Mrs. F. R. Reid.
4. Mrs. Walter Grieve and Mrs. James Miller.
5. Mrs. William Neill.
6. Mrs. Tom Ballantine and Mrs. Jno. Rennie.

The bazaar was a huge success—at least it was considered so in those days. The gross drawings

amounted to the respectable sum of £1,309 11s 7d.

Meanwhile the Volunteers had been drilling in all sorts of inconvenient places, such as the Town Hall, Academy grounds, Highlanders' Academy, Mechanics' Hall, and the hall in the Glebe formerly occupied by the Ragged School, but now covered by Albert Harbour. The question of a permanent Drill Hall naturally came to the front on the acquisition of the bazaar funds. In November, 1862, a plan was submitted by Captain F. R. Reid, not to exceed in cost £40 per company. A committee, consisting of Sir Michael, Captains Reid and Duff, and Lieutenant Erskine, was appointed to consider and report. £700 was considered a large sum in those days for a drill hall; but £7,000 is thought now too small a sum for a building suitable as the headquarters and Drill Hall for the battalion.

The first hall was built in a hole, and the battalion has never been able to get out of it; but, with all its faults, it has served its day, and there are memories clustering round it which will ever make it dear to us.

The day of its opening is a never-to-be-forgotten one—no less than that of the marriage of the Prince of Wales, afterwards King Edward, with his Norse bride, Queen Alexandra. The whole town was *en fete*, such as it has never been since. The decorations were superb. Fountains were erected in the streets, surrounded with greenery; flags were displayed everywhere. In the evening the town was illuminated, a display of fireworks by Barlow was given, and public balls in the Town Hall and elsewhere took place.

The Volunteers, Artillery and Rifles, mustered in St. Andrew Square at 10 a.m., as it was a national holiday, and each man was decorated with a wedding favour in honour of the happy event. The march to Fort Matilda was through crowded streets of loyal

citizens, many of whom escorted us to the Battery Park, where the Rifles fired a *feu de joie* and the Artillery a Royal salute with the big guns.

The objective on the return march was the new Drill Hall, which was inaugurated by a luncheon to the Volunteers, after which the "dismiss" took place at St. Andrew Square. What is now called the Old Drill Hall—and time it was, as it is more of a stable than the headquarters of a smart battalion—will be for ever associated with the Prince of Wales and Baron of Renfrew, whose plumes and motto, "*Ich Dien*," were so long worn on the ornaments of the battalion.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE Volunteer Force was not long in existence until a system of inspection, by field officers appointed by the War Office, took place. This was chiefly done by the Officer Commanding the depot or regimental district, and the names which occur to our memory are those of Colonels Bulwer, Gordon, Hope, Hunt, Beresford, Macpherson, Nightingale, Sunderland, Peacock, Trotter, Templeman, Walker, and Young. All were good men and true, but their supervision of the force was of a very limited description.

The annual inspection was pretty much of a farce, and not calculated to increase the respect of the force for the Army and its superior officers. A mistaken notion prevailed that it was necessary to speak smooth things in order not to offend the susceptibilities of the Volunteers; but this was a delusion, as the members of the force well know. The inspecting officers knew little or nothing of the corps under their command and the personnel of their officers. Their duties were chiefly those of correspondence, and they were more familiar with the office stool than with their chargers. This the keenest of them complained of. The system was egregiously wrong, and one that would not be tolerated in business circles. The inspecting officers ought to have been in touch with every unit in their command, and from time to time been present at their parades, without going through the formality and farce of an annual inspection, which in some cases was frittered away in the mere inspection of clothing and accoutrements. The Volunteers suffered from want of thorough inspection and training on the part of those deputed and paid for the purpose.

Nowadays things are a trifle better; but much

remains to be done, and a proper system is needed by which Brigadiers can be kept *en rapport* with all that goes on in their battalions. They ought to know the capacity of the officers, from the C.O. to the subaltern, and be in a position to block the promotion of any officer who shows no tactical or even drill fitness for his position. Especially in the Territorial Force, no officer or non-commissioned officer should be promoted by seniority alone, even when it is allied with an examination on paper. Examinations serve a purpose, and give evidence of a certain amount of reading; but apart from ability in the field they are not worth the paper they are written on. There is a screw loose, or a connecting link awanting, somewhere, and it is here that the Brigadier, as an unprejudiced officer, would prove his usefulness and justify his existence, if he, without undue severity, would make himself so acquainted with his command that he could approve or otherwise of the promotion of any officer in the interests of the service. Though an officer, or N.C.O., has at one period of his life passed his examination, he must not be allowed to repose on his laurels, but must be kept up-to-date by practical work, which the Brigadier is best qualified to supervise. In the Line, circumstances are somewhat different, but in the Territorials, with such a small permanent staff, officers and N.C.O.'s must be kept up to the mark.

The Volunteers at the beginning of their career were anxious to prove their patriotism and their efficiency, and so, in response to their own demands, often found themselves called upon to run when they could barely walk. What applied to Scotland was equally true of the South, and, except for an outing and for a spectacular effect, the yearly Battle of Brighton Downs was of very little value to the Volunteers from a soldiering point of view.

In addition to the sham fight at Pollok, which, as far as the 1st Renfrew was concerned, was very much

of a sham, we had two sham battles at Capellie and Fereneze, thanks to the public spirit of the well-known brothers, Colonel and Major Graham, a pair of stalwarts in everything—politics, sport, Volunteering, and all that pertained to the life of a country gentleman. Their interest in rifle shooting was marvellous for men of their years and position, and it was to them mainly that Renfrewshire owed the high position it gained on the ranges at Wimbledon, Bisley, Edinburgh, and elsewhere. Wet or dry these two old patriots invariably turned up at the Brigade Match; and even in a downpour of rain we have seen the gallant Major occupy the humble position of scorer in the match. And, in his summing up of the scores, his cheery call of total and grand total can never be forgotten.

Alike in rifle shooting as in drill, officers must lead, and woe be to that battalion, as far as rifle-shooting is concerned, if its officers do not take a personal and keen interest in the work of the rifle range. As Cæsar said, "Come," not "go," so every good officer must be prepared to "teach the young idea how to shoot," and encourage him in the art of rifle shooting, to which there is no royal road, but a laborious, though pleasant, path. The decay of rifle shooting in the old 1st Renfrew dates from the time when the new style officer came on the scene and ceased to walk in the "old paths" of the older officers, who took a pleasure and pride in shooting, either in company, battalion, or brigade matches. In addition, the Army Council ought certainly to make free grants of ammunition to the Territorials, or cease to make invidious comparisons with line regiments, which are more highly favoured both in the matter of ammunition and of time at their disposal for practice. The present price of ammunition makes it almost prohibitive for young men of limited means to practise, and it is only when he is fortunate enough to win a battalion prize

that a Territorial can expect to enjoy the luxury of rifle shooting. This may be called pot-hunting, but it is a means to an end ; and he is a "lucky shot " who, after deduction of his expenses, finds something in his pot at the end of the season.

CHAPTER XVII.

THE battle of Capellie, which took place on Saturday afternoon, the 30th July, 1864, was not an unqualified success. Everything was done to make it so, and Major Graham even went to the trouble and expense of levelling long stretches of walls, a thing quite unheard of in actual warfare, and also of improving the roads so as to permit of the easy passage of carriages and other vehicles to the stations assigned them.

About 7,000 troops were under the command of Colonel M'Murdo, Inspector-General of Volunteers. Sir Michael Shaw Stewart commanded the Renfrewshire Brigade, and another fine old-time Volunteer, Sir Islay Campbell, of Garscube, commanded the 3rd Brigade. Additional interest was given to the fight by the presence of the 92nd Highlanders, who, with their feather bonnets and scarlet doublets, were the cynosure of all eyes as they marched up the heights of Duchielaw.

The 1st Renfrew paraded (with well-filled haversacks) at half-past ten o'clock, 451 strong, and entrained for Paisley, where we formed up in County Square along with some other battalions. After a judicious wait, the corps moved off and "marched to the battle field," but halted en route, and the companies were equalised and proved in a field belonging to a friendly native of the country. There also we fortified the inner man, bearing in mind the well-known axiom that "an army marches on its stomach." Our trek to the scene of war was about five miles; but we were quite fresh and eager for the fray. The field of operations was beautiful for situation, but not ideal for tactical movements. It was pretty much of an amphitheatre, and seemed to be arranged for the benefit of the sightseers, who were in their thousands,

their wants being ministered to by an array of refreshment tents and peripatetic hawkers of fruit, &c. Paisley and Glasgow were easily visible, so also was Tinto and the hills of Peebleshire in the background.

Sir Michael's brigade formed part of the attacking force, and was stationed on the west side of Game Hill, other two brigades being on the east side, while the 1st Brigade, including the 92nd, formed the defending force. With the exception of two companies which were sent out to skirmish, and opened a galling fire on the right of the defending line, the battalion had little work to do—"too little," was the opinion of all. Firing was heard, but little was seen of our friends the enemy. Our worst experience was one not unknown even in South Africa, when a battalion of our own force formed line in rear and opened fire on us. After forming line behind a dyke, and firing two or three rounds, the Greenock battalion was marched back again to Game Hill to "wait a little longer" doing nothing. We were again formed in line behind a hedge, and fired at twigs and green leaves till the enemy hove in sight, and the "Cease fire" was sounded at 4.15. No advantage had been gained on either side—a very safe way to put it—as the extension of the defenders' right had been met by a corresponding movement on the part of their opponents.

The March Past took place, before Colonel M'Murdo, in a fine level field below Capellie. Thereafter, the troops were massed in quarter-column in front of the General, who addressed the Volunteers in the most laudatory terms, and expressed his gratification at having with them that glorious old regiment, the 92nd. The Highlanders then marched off the ground amid the enthusiastic cheering of the Volunteers. It was felt by the Volunteers that there was bad management somewhere, and someone was at

fault ; but certainly not the Volunteers. It was a great spectacle, but not conducive to drill or instruction. However, Colonel M'Murdo said the firing was exceedingly good, and that the force of 7,000 men made respectively in two bodies three changes of front despite the nature of the ground, which was greatly to their credit. What shall a mere tyro in tactics say in reply ? Looking back on the battle of Cappellie, the whole arrangements seem to have been crude and ill-considered, such as would not be thought of nowadays ; but there was a fine spirit of discipline and endurance displayed by the Volunteers, which is worth even more than the best laid schemes carried out with precision and skill.

CHAPTER XVIII

THE presentation of colours by King Edward at Windsor in 1909, and at which one of the Port-Glasgow subalterns took a prominent part with the colour party of the 5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, reminds one of the re-presentation of colours to the Port-Glasgow Company which took place on Saturday afternoon, 25th February, 1860.

These colours had been sewed by the ladies of Port-Glasgow forty years previously, and presented to the Volunteer Corps of the town. They consisted of a beautiful silk Union flag, with a very handsome blue silk flag, sewed in exquisite needlework, having the Rose, Thistle, and Shamrock, surmounted by the Scottish Crown, with the words, "Port-Glasgow Volunteers," and the motto, "For God, Our Country, and King." When the corps was disembodied the colours were retained by Mr. Cleland, the former captain, a gentleman connected with Her Majesty's Customs, who kept them in a beautiful state of preservation. When applied to, his widow, who was resident in Bristol, at once sent on the colours for presentation to the new company of Volunteers which was then styled the 5th Renfrewshire. The presentation, it was arranged, should be made by Mrs. A. M. Burrell, whose husband had been a member of the old corps, and whom we remember as a Provost of Port-Glasgow. Volunteering must have run in the blood of the Burrells, as his son was one of the enthusiasts of 1859, and regularly footed it from Port-Glasgow to Greenock in the mornings, for drill at the Academy Park, before the Port-Glasgow Company was formed. Eventually he became a Lieutenant in No. 1, and was one of the smartest young officers in the battalion.

There was a large muster of the Port-Glasgow

Company, and it was memorable from the fact that it was the first time they had appeared in public under arms, the weapon being the muzzle-loading Enfield. The officers present were Captain Anderson, Lieut. Birkmyre, and Ensign Dunbar. The day was wet and preparations for an indoor ceremony had been arranged, but in an interval between the showers, owing to the excitement in the town and the immense crowd who were eager to view the proceedings, it was thought advisable to have the ceremony performed in the open air, at the Waterloo Stores, Bay Street.

When the corps were drawn up in line, Mrs. Burrell stood forward and said :—"Gentlemen of the Port-Glasgow Volunteer Rifle Corps, having been requested to present you with these colours, I now do so with great pleasure, trusting that in your hands they will remain unsullied, and that you will wear them with credit to yourselves and honour to your country." Dr. Douglas Reid, a well-known townsman and Volunteer, then gave an effective address, followed by Captain Anderson, who, on receiving the colours, said that the gift would be warmly cherished by the corps which he had the honour to command.

A downpour of rain which took place immediately afterwards, and was an appropriate christening of the colours, dispersed the crowd and caused the corps to march back to its rendezvous. Subsequently the corps and a number of friends met in the Town Buildings, where there was a dipping of the colours of another sort, and the health of the Queen was drank in a glass of wine. Although they can no longer be carried on parade, these interesting and valuable colours will ever remain a treasured possession in the custody of their worthy successors, E company of the 5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, now commanded by that stalwart officer, Captain Donald Main.

In the early days of the Volunteers a favourite

outing was the brigade drill, with the other county battalions, in the grounds of Hawkhead, the seat of the Earl of Glasgow. The march out from Paisley along the fine country road to Barrhead, and the beautiful park, with its grateful shelter of lovely old trees, will always remain as a happy memory. On one occasion we were brigaded with the Renfrewshire Militia (now the 4th A. and S. Highlanders), and the poetic calm of the place, we cannot forget, was rudely disturbed by the lurid and unparliamentary language of their commanding officer ; but "*De mortuis nil nisi bonum.*"

The first Adjutant of the Greenock battalion was Captain G. B. Godbold, from a London Militia Regiment. In 1867 he retired in favour of Captain John Joseph Grier, of the 15th Regiment, a splendid officer, a good draughtsman, and a perfect gentleman. At that time the term of office was unlimited, but the battalion was fortunate in their experience of Captain, afterwards Major, Grier. He put his whole heart into his work, and, unlike many others of his class, sport and pleasure were secondary to his military duties. He served the battalion and his country faithfully and well, for the long period of about 20 years; and lately, after having passed the allotted span, this good soldier laid aside his armour, and now rests in peace.

Since his period of service, a new and better system has been inaugurated, and Adjutants are appointed for a limited term, three years being the maximum, with, in exceptional circumstances, a short extension of their tour of duty. In this way younger officers, and, in time of peace, keener men, are appointed, who must keep themselves *en rapport* with all that is taking place in drill and tactics.

The same rule should apply to Staff Sergeants, who ought to be well remunerated for their important work, as so much depends on them in a Territorial

Regiment. Frequent changes do not always spell increased efficiency, but younger men retained on the strength of their Line Regiments, should, we think, be sent as instructors (and more of them too) to the Territorial Force when they are at their very best, thereby infusing into their corps that freshness and smartness which, after a few years, are lost by even the best men when permanently detached from the Line. It seems absurd for the Army Council to expect four Colour-Sergeant-Instructors to drill the recruits of a battalion, eight companies strong, while the Special Reserve (the old Militia) have two instructors per company allotted to them. Even conceding the superior intelligence of the Territorials, at least one instructor per company should be allowed them, and in addition a Sergeant-Major with warrant rank over the whole. At present the Sergeant-Major has only acting rank, and, as regards pay and position, is on exactly the same footing as the other Colour-Sergeant-Instructors. As everyone knows, the Sergeant-Major of any regiment has a much more responsible position to fill than an ordinary instructor, and the least the Army Council can do is to give him the rank and pay which should belong to his post.

CHAPTER XIX.

IT was, we think, in the year 1867, that the Rothesay Company, which had hitherto been an independent unit, was attached to the 1st Administrative Battalion R.R.V. for drill and administrative purposes. Except on rare occasions, its inspection followed that of the battalion, and was usually held in the Public Park, at which we assisted frequently. It was present, as the 1st Buteshire, at the Royal Review in the year 1860, when there was a muster of 66 N.C.O.'s and men, under the command of Lieutenant Dan. Macbeth and Ensign Charles F. Maclachlan. Dr. Maddover, who was for so many years its Surgeon, was also present.

The local officers who commanded this company, till its disbandment in 1905, were Captains Macbeth, M'Kirdy, M'Ewan, Wilson, Buchanan, and M'Isaac. In the early muster roll, it is interesting to notice the predominance of the Celtic element, there being many representatives of the Lamonts, M'Nabs, M'Fies, M'Kinnons, and the Morrisons.

I Company, as it was officially designated, was strong in shooting power. The names of M'Isaac, M'Fie, Montgomery, and Macnab naturally occur to us as marksmen of the first rank. Its company team was almost invincible, and succeeded in carrying off the Greenock Corporation Cup eleven times in succession, the "Greenock Telegraph" Cup twice, and the Muir Challenge Cup twice. Its individual successes have been legion, amongst others the Caledonian Challenge Shield on several occasions, the final stage of the Queen's Prize ten times, the Battalion Challenge Medal twelve times, the Officers' Challenge Shield six times, and the Ormidale Cup for the best score in the Brigade Competition on three different occasions.

"Somebody blundered" when such an efficient company was dropped from the strength of the Volunteer Force, and no solid reason has ever been advanced for this being done. If Renfrew was too remote for its headquarters, surely Argyll was near enough, and it could quite well have been associated with the battalion whose headquarters are at Dunoon. A great discouragement to Volunteering in the Island of Bute was given by this questionable decision of the War Office, and we believe the disaster might have been averted if the case had been properly taken up by the representatives of the Government of that day. They don't know everything down in Pall Mall, and had local information been listened to, the 1st Renfrew would not have been deprived of one of its most vigorous and useful limbs.

From their formation in 1859, the uniform of the Greenock Rifle Volunteers was of a very simple and modest character. For many years it remained unaltered. The two kilted companies, if we may except them, had a more picturesque uniform. They had a doublet of dark green, with a kilt of the old Black Watch tartan, and hose of green and black. The officers had as a badge on their Balmorals the lion rampant, surrounded by "*Dia agus ar Duthaich*" ("God and our Country"), and the other ranks a bronze bugle. In 1873 the kilties exchanged their Balmorals for the Glengarry. Some time previously the 1st Corps had adopted the cloth shako, with ball, for their head-dress. In 1878 this gave place to a green cloth helmet, with bronze ornaments, consisting of the Prince of Wales' plumes, and an undress cap of a very expensive character for the officers, similar to that worn by the Scots Guards. Barring these little changes, and the introduction of scarlet facings, the original uniform remained intact for a long period of years.

CHAPTER XX.

IT was a great loss to the battalion when, in 1869, its commanding officer, Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart, Bart., sent in his papers to the War Office, after having given ten years good service to his Queen and country. In this he set an example to the landed aristocracy which, we regret, has not been followed up in later years. Country gentlemen and captains of industry are slow to identify themselves with the Territorial Forces of the country, and have left it pretty much to the commercial classes to lead and officer the great Volunteer movement. This they are quite qualified to do, and have done in fine style. The loss is not to the Force, but to the land-owners and society men themselves, who would be all the better of the training, and, by association with the masses, the classes would lose many of the angularities peculiar to their position.

On retiring from the command, Sir Michael was entertained to dinner by the officers in the old Tontine Hotel, then tenanted by Mrs. Macdonald. Colonel Latham presided, and among the guests we remember Colonel Bulwer, C.B., the inspecting officer, who was afterwards in the War Office as General Sir E. Bulwer, K.C.B. On the retiral of Sir Michael, who was subsequently appointed Hon. Colonel of the battalion, his position was satisfactorily filled up by the appointment of Colonel Latham, a former captain in the Royal Renfrew Militia, who was one of the enthusiasts of 1859, and who had been working for the establishment of a corps of Volunteers in Greenock for several years before that date.

July of 1869 saw us brigaded at Ayr with the "Soor Dooks," as the Yeomanry were facetiously styled, and with the Royal Ayr and Wigtown Militia.

We paraded 450 strong, and had a very enjoyable time. It was somewhat marred, however, by an unseemly squabble which took place at the close of the drill over the possession of the water cart. The water supply was always carefully attended to at all our outings; but the great heat at Ayr seemed to have generated heat of another description, and it required all the tact of our commanding officer to pour oil on the troubled waters, and to keep every one cool after the high state of friction which prevailed among the companies.

The year 1870 is notable for the fact that, for the first time in the history of the Volunteers, the officers were called upon to present themselves for examination, both written and practical, before a Board of Officers appointed by the commander of the district. The Greenock officers were about the first in the field, and thirteen of their number submitted themselves to the terrible ordeal, and all passed through with flying colours. We shall suppose these were the *creme de la creme*, as the subsequent batch was not so successful. The bad system of the election of officers was a thing of the past, and the saner method of selection by the commanding officer was now in vogue and ever afterwards, so that a man is appointed on his merits. No plan is absolutely perfect; but on the whole, with all its faults, selection has proved the most successful, as it puts an end to all intriguing for place, and secures the independence of the officer so nominated. A proficiency examination is not now so common as it was, as, with the inducements held out, nearly all the recruit officers take a month's training with a line regiment, or attend a school of instruction for a like period.

From being an administrative battalion, the 1st Renfrew was, in the year 1880, transformed into a consolidated battalion, which put an end to the independence of the various units composing the

battalion, and put all under the supreme control of the commanding officer.

In this same year a proposal was mooted to have another Royal Review at Edinburgh, similar to that of 1860. However, it was not till the 25th August, 1881, that the project became *un fait accompli*. Two decades had passed and a new generation had sprung up since our first Royal Review. Every one was anxious, as his father had been before him, to parade before the Queen. The Greenock Volunteers had increased, not only in efficiency, but in numbers, and it may interest our readers to give the parade state of the day.

The Artillery, commanded by Colonel John Scott, mustered 18 officers and 434 men, the officers being :—

Major John Fullarton.
Captain and Adjutant Taylor.

No. 1 Battery—Captain Robert Thorne.
Lieutenant A. Carmichael
Lieutenant J. Scott.

No. 2 Battery—Captain H. R. Walker.
Lieutenant H. J. Thorne.
Lieutenant J. Fleming.

No. 3 Battery—Captain F. W. Allan, Port-Glasgow.

No. 4 Battery—Lieutenant R. Duncan, Port-Glasgow.

No. 5 Battery—Captain T. J. F. Messer, Helensburgh.
Lieutenant Anderson.
Lieutenant Gemmell.

No. 6 Battery—Captain W. L. Halley, Dumbarton.
Lieutenant J. M'Leod.

No. 7 Battery—Lieutenant E. A. Johnson, Dumbarton.

The Battalion R.R.V. had a parade state of

31 Officers.
91 N.C.O. and Band.
633 Rank and File.

755

For the occasion it was told off into twelve companies

The officers present were :

- Colonel D. M. Latham.
Major William Ross.
Major W. O. Leitch.
Major and Adjutant J. J. Grier.
- No. 1—Captain R. Oliphant,
Lieutenant J. Morton.
Lieutenant J. K. Stewart
- No. 2—Captain W. N. A. Aitken.
Lieutenant Geo. Williamson.
- No. 3—Captain William Lamont.
Lieutenant W. U. Park.
- No. 4—Captain Dugald MacEachran.
Lieutenant J. S. Nicol.
- No. 5—Lieutenant H. W. Walker.
Lieutenant R. D. Muir.
- No. 6—Lieutenant Thomas Neill.
Lieutenant J. M'Isaac.
- No. 7—Captain D. Scobie, Port-Glasgow.
Lieutenant R. W. Livingston.
- No. 8—Captain Donald Brown, Gourrock.
Lieutenant Fred. Munsie.
- No. 9—Captain R. M'Ewan, Rothesay.
Lieutenant J. T. Wilson.
- No. 10—Captain James Tannahill.
Lieutenant Robert Lyle.
- No. 11—Lieutenant Macdougall.
Lieutenant Abram Lyle.
- No. 12—Captain John Stewart.
Lieutenant G. H. Black.

For obvious reasons we shall not attempt to give the names of the survivors of this historical Review. But one cannot look over the list of officers without a feeling of sadness at the blanks created by death, at least ten of our comrades having passed into the silent land, there to await the sound of the last trump.

The fateful morning of the 25th August opened dull and dark. As we had to parade at an unearthly hour, the reveillé was sounded through the streets of Greenock long before dawn, while in Gourrock the bugle went as early as 2 a.m. "Hey, Johnnie Cope,

are ye waukin' yet?" made us jump out of bed with a spring; and, after a hasty toilet, we found our way to the cooking depots, which considerably found the worms for the early birds. Somewhere about 4.30 a.m., we mustered in Cathcart Square. But, before that time, the sturdy men from Gourrock, under Captain Donald Brown, and the smart little company from the Madeira of Scotland, commanded by Captain M'Ewan, occupied the field. This latter company left Rothesay before three o'clock in the morning, and the presumption is that, like the House of Commons, they had an all-night sitting. At five o'clock both Artillery and Rifles marched off, in high spirits, to the Caledonian Station.

It was about nine o'clock when we arrived at Murrayfield Station, Edinburgh. Our headquarters were in a school at Lothian Road, where we breakfasted on meat rolls and tea, and were also supplied with two extra rolls for lunch. After breakfast we marched to the Meadows, where we spent about two hours inspecting and proving the companies and getting everything ready for the review. Many anxious looks were given to the sky, as up till then the weather, though dry, was dull. Still, we hoped for the best, and trusted that Queen's weather would be our luck once more.

We set off about midday, in column of route, for the Queen's Park, where we took up our position in the 2nd Brigade (Colonel Beresford) of the 3rd Division, commanded by that good old Highlander, General Sir John M'Leod. The Review Ground was a repeat of that of 1860. The slopes of the hills, as well as every other *coigne d'avantage*, were densely crowded with interested spectators. We were not long in position till the threatening clouds burst in torrents of rain, which continued for the remainder of the day, with only one brief interval—about half-past

three o'clock. Her Majesty, about a quarter to four o'clock, drove into the Queen's Park amid tremendous cheering and a pitiless rain, the proverbial Queen's weather having deserted her for the time being. A strong wind was also blowing across the parade ground, and between the two the weather conditions were of the very worst.

After inspecting the divisions in the customary style, the Queen took up her position at the saluting base, in front of the grand stand, which was full in every seat, and included quite a number of lady and other friends of the Volunteers from Greenock. Without loss of time the march-past of the 40,000 Volunteers began. It was not a bit too soon, as they had manfully stood for about four hours exposed to a cold blinding rain. The hillsides and fringe of the field now presented a curious sight; umbrellas were in evidence everywhere, and the whole appeared like a field of mushrooms.

The Greenock Volunteers, despite the contending elements, marched past Her Majesty in their best form, and were rewarded by the Duke of Cambridge, who was then Commander-in-Chief, calling out "Well done, indeed, 1st Battalion Renfrew," and many of the occupants of the grand stand cheering us lustily. "All marched extremely well, while the stalwart Highlanders from Greenock received a special cheer, their marching and dressing being much admired." So said the chronicler of the day, and deponent cordially agrees. The field was one, not of *gloire*, but glaur, and the level ground in the neighbourhood of the grand stand was covered with liquid mud. The tramp of the thousands had reduced it to the consistency of water, and we literally marched through the Black Sea, every successive company sending a wave in its track such as one might see at the Mid Quay.

When all was over, the men gave vent to their feelings by rounds of cheering, which although a breach of discipline, was pardonable in the circumstances. We had a second march-past, but this time it was past the field where our proveditors awaited us. Without anything to eat, we were hurried off to the railway station, where we arrived shivering and sodden, but thankful for the friendly shelter of the railway carriages. Ludicrous attempts were made on the homeward journey to dry our uniforms, or our persons; but there was no hope for either till we arrived home (many of us at anyrate) at "the wee short oor ayont the twal."

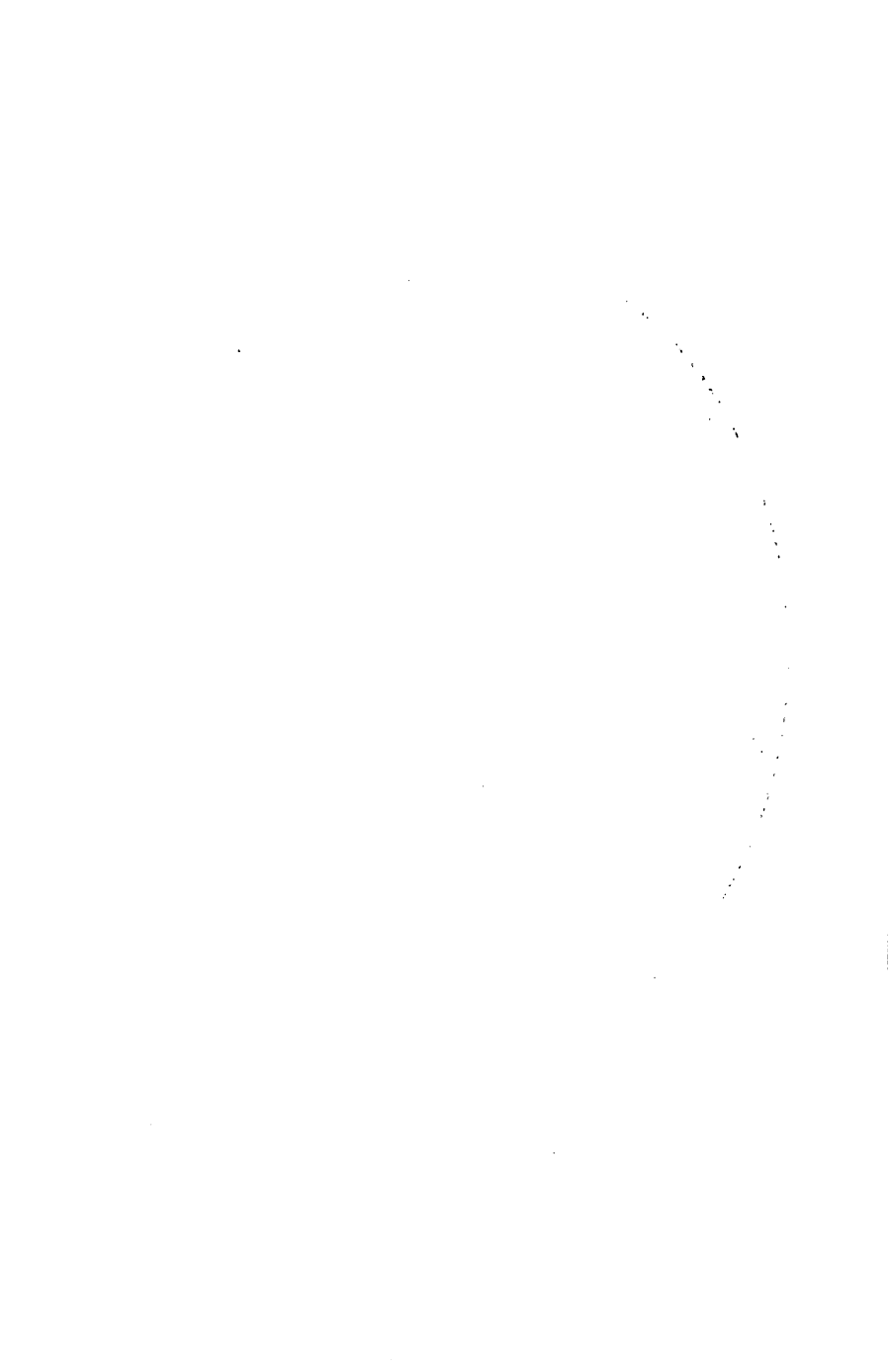
As far as is known, none of the Greenock Volunteers suffered from their immersion; but, throughout the country, not a few paid the penalty of their patriotism with their lives. The chief complaint of the Greenock Volunteers was a stomach one; but there were no casualties. The unfortunate purveyor had made sandwiches with hot rolls and meat, which were at least a day old when served out, and had thus acquired a foreign flavour. Be that as it may, it is the glorious privilege of a Scotsman to grumble, and for days thereafter an animated correspondence took place as to the quality and quantity of the aforesaid rolls. What is more to the point is that, on our arrival home, both Colonels Scott and Latham received telegrams from the G.O.C. in the following terms:—"Her Majesty desires me to express her congratulations and great satisfaction with the bearing and conduct of your men, and wishes to be informed of their safe arrival." A General Order was also published by Major-General Alastair Macdonald, commanding the Forces in Scotland, to the same effect, and so ended the Royal Review of 1881. The number present was exactly double that of 1860, and included that smart battalion, raised by Lord Elcho, the London Scottish. Officers and men were better

drilled and more easily handled than in the ancient days. By successive stages the Volunteers had asserted themselves. The period of toleration was past, and the age of recognition had now set in. They had amply justified their existence, and proved themselves a valuable asset in the military forces of the country.

CHAPTER XXI.

ON the 25th January, 1881, Major James Stewart, M.P., of Garvocks, tendered the resignation of his commission in the Greenock battalion. Thereby was snapped a link with the patriotic band of gentlemen who, years before 1859, agitated for permission to form a Volunteer Corps. His memory deserves to be held in respect for having quietly pegged away at the idea of Volunteering before it seized hold on the official mind, or even the country. His military spirit, we are pleased to say, has also animated his sons, and, if we mistake not, three of them served their King and country in South Africa—Major Ian Stewart in the Scottish Rifles, Captain P. D. Stewart in the Gordon Highlanders, and another son in the Imperial Yeomanry.

Mention has recently been made of the part taken by Mr. Allan Park Paton, the poet, in the erection of the memorial to John Galt, the novelist; so it may not be out of place to record the fact that the name of John Galt, Blackhall Street, figures in the muster-roll of Major Archibald Campbell's Volunteers of 1795. He was a member of the left division of Grenadiers, while his brother novelist and admirer, Mr. Allan Park Paton, was for a time Covering Sergeant of No. 1 Company of the 1859 Volunteers. Showing that he still remembered his old Volunteer days and duties, Mr. Paton, in July, 1904, sent us the following acknowledgment, which speaks for itself: "With Allan Park Paton's kind regards, and thanks for congratulatory letter on his having *covered* eighty-six years, according to *commands*." He also enclosed a faded memo. in the well-known handwriting of Colonel Latham, giving the position of the Covering Sergeant in column, in line, in line taking open order, and also when the rear





COL. WILLIAM ROSS.

rank takes close order. Poets and novelists, it will thus be seen, are frequently practical patriots, and not sentimental Tommies. The Wizard of the North, Walter Scott, was a Yeoman; and Robert Burns, the immortal ploughman, a Scottish Volunteer.

On the 7th October, 1884, Colonel D. M. Latham, after a Volunteer service of twenty-five years, sent in his resignation to the Officer Commanding the 91st Regimental District, Stirling. It is needless to say that this resignation caused universal regret, and was felt to be a distinct loss to the Volunteer Force. Though never anxious for fame or notoriety, no officer deserved more than he the recognition of his Sovereign. While many men with less service, and much less claim, have had honours thrust upon them, Colonel Latham retired from the service without anything beyond the Volunteer officers' decoration, which we had the honour to put into his hands—without even the stereotyped letter of thanks. But he had what was far better, what gold cannot buy—the esteem and affection of all under his command.

Colonel William Ross, as second in command, took the position vacated by his senior. He had well earned his promotion, as he also had served his country for the long period of twenty-five years, having figured as No. 1 in the original muster-roll of the 1st R.R.V. His family may be described as a public-spirited one. Including the Colonel, we find four brothers, in the early stages of the 1859 movement, "coming to the front" as Volunteers in the good old corps.

With the exception of a blue Glengarry, adopted as an undress cap in 1880, no change had taken place in the uniform of the corps. The grey uniform and green helmet were still worn; but in the year 1890 there was a serious outbreak of "scarlet fever" throughout the country. The reason is not far to seek, and is accounted for by the fact that the

Volunteers, as a result of Mr. Cardwell's scheme, were associated with the Territorial regiments of their districts. The Greenock Battalion, being in the command of the 91st Regimental District, Stirling, what was more natural than that the uniform of the battalion should be assimilated to that of such a glorious regiment as the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders? This regiment was composed of the old 91st Argyllshire and the 93rd Sutherland Highlanders, who became the 1st and 2nd Battalion respectively of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Like a true Highlander, Colonel Ross's heart warmed to the tartan, and this feeling was almost universal among both officers and men. To be associated, however remotely, with "The Thin Red Line," was an honour not to be despised, and so arrangements were initiated by Colonel Ross to clothe the battalion in the scarlet doublet and tartan trews of the A. and S. H., although it was left to his successor to carry out the contract.

During Colonel Ross's command, the battalion went into camp for the first time at Gailes, one of the most delightful of camping grounds, and reminiscent of good fellowship. There, as one of the senior officers naively expressed it, "the night was the best part of the day."

The camp in those days was purely optional, and just as well, for few battalions could stand an annual camp on the generous (?) allowance given by the War Office. Officers and men were put on the same footing—viz., 2s per diem—in the case of a regimental camp. With this wretched donation towards his expenses, each officer, for the privilege of perfecting himself in his military duties and of serving a grateful country, found himself out of pocket to a considerable amount at the end of the training. By-and-by the allowance was increased to 4s, then 8s per day, till now every officer in camp, except the chaplain, is

given the Army pay of his rank. This is what it ought to be, and what we long contended for. The most glaring inequality of all was that all officers were treated exactly alike; Jack was as good as his master; the youngest recruit officer was paid on the same scale as the officer commanding the battalion. But after an experience of fifty years the War Office has at last seen its way to be reasonable and just; and, as the French say, "We have changed all that," thanks to the pertinacity of the older officers who for so long a period practically "bled for their country."

The Militiaman, on the other hand, has always enjoyed the Army pay of his rank, whether in camp or when attached to a Line Regiment or a school for instruction. The Volunteer officer was in many respects keener and better, and, in addition, did tenfold the work of the Militiaman, as he was practically on duty all the year round, and not limited to a short period of training. The Volunteer was the Cinderella of the service, but with the advent of the Territorial a brighter day has dawned.

One of the red-letter days in the command of Colonel Ross was the 28th August, 1888, when our beloved Queen, Victoria the Good, visited Blythswood on the occasion of the opening of the Glasgow International Exhibition. The battalion mustered strong under Colonel Ross, with Lieutenant-Colonels Leitch and Lamont as field officers. It was conveyed by river steamer to Renfrew, whence we marched to Blythswood, and lined the route toward the Renfrew Railway Station for Her Majesty. Everything went well, and we were royally entertained by Lord Blythswood in marquees erected on his grounds. Between the departure of Her Majesty and her arrival back from Glasgow, discipline was relaxed, and amusements were engaged in by the men.

We did duty again on the Queen's return, and

were rewarded by her gracious smile and bow as she drove slowly along the route to Blythwood. At Renfrew Station an inexperienced field officer, from one of the County corps, mounted on a "wa(u)r" horse, contrived to get foul of the Queen's carriage, somewhat to her alarm; but the 1st Renfrew came to the rescue, in the person of that most popular officer, the late Major John Stewart, of Glengarden, who promptly seized the charger by the bridle, and so put a stop to his unauthorised interview with Queen Victoria. The Queen never forgot the incident, but mentioned it several times to Captain (now Colonel) Stanley Paterson of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders when he was in command of the Guard of Honour at Balmoral. Many years afterwards, when with his regiment at Maryhill, he recalled the interesting circumstance to our memory, and also how vividly the Queen remembered it likewise. Colonel Nightingale, one of the most genial of commanders, was in supreme command of the troops, with Captain Stanley Paterson as his Brigade-Major, and we distinctly remember him coming over to our mess tent, to make particular inquiry into the railway station incident, which might have proved an unfortunate accident.

Colonel Ross commanded the Battalion for a period of six years, and retired in 1890, with permission to wear his uniform and rank, after a splendid service of thirty-one years, which was in excess of that of any of his honoured predecessors.

Colonel William Orr Leitch, a member of a historic Greenock family, and one of the 1859 Volunteers, reigned in his stead. Colonel Leitch was the first commanding officer in Greenock, although not the last, who "rose from the ranks" and passed through the various grades before attaining the summit of every good officer's ambition, the command of his Battalion. The best type of officer is the one who has "gone through the mill," that is to say, passed through

1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the



COL. W. O. LEITCH.

the ranks. An ounce of experience is worth a ton of theory, and we should like to see this principle recognised in the Territorials, so that no candidate would be eligible for a commission unless he had two years' rank service. In addition to his corps duties, Colonel Leitch took an active part in rifle shooting, and for several years was the interested and successful superintendent of the western district of the Scottish Twenty Club, which was formed to assist in the selection of members for the Scottish team, in the great international match.

CHAPTER XXII.

IT was the good fortune of Colonel W. O. Leitch to enter into the labours of his predecessor, and to see the whole of the 1st V.B. Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders uniformed in the picturesque garb (not yet of "Old Gaul") of the Territorial Regiment. It remained for his successor to "tak' the breeks off the Hielanman," by many regarded as an impossible feat; but of that by-and-by.

As the change of uniform meant a very large expenditure, which could not conveniently be met out of the annual capitation grant, the usual expedient was resorted to. A grand bazaar was organised to wipe off the debt, and the sum of £3,000 was the amount aimed at. The ladies, of course, were busy for months beforehand, and contributions poured in from all parts of the world. Old members of the corps sent contributions from China, America, Australia, Africa, and elsewhere, and in every sense of the term it was a Volunteer bazaar; no compulsion, or even moral suasion, being necessary. There was certainly no restraint from bringing. Willing hands produced all manner of work, and the result was highly creditable to all concerned. There were five stalls for the sale of goods. A Company was responsible for No. 1, C and F No. 2, B and I No. 3, D and E No. 4, and G and H No. 5. There were also flower and refreshment stalls. The names of the fair ladies who presided are too numerous to mention. Major Tannahill was treasurer, and Major J. K. Stewart was secretary of the great undertaking. In their hands nothing was neglected, and no labour spared to bring success to the venture.

As at the first Volunteer bazaar, Sir Michael and Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart were heart and soul in it. On the opening day, 18th December, 1890, Sir

Michael delivered himself of one of these bluff, genial, reminiscent speeches at which he was an adept. And when he gave the word of command to the ladies, "Ready," "Present," a rapid fire began, and continued for three days, which had such a telling effect on the "mere men," that at the end of the engagement the spoils of war were quite up to expectations.

Colonel Leitch only held the command for about two years; but he was honoured in having the privilege which none of the other commanding officers have enjoyed, of saying farewell to the battalion at a special parade called for the purpose. This he did in the best of style, remarking that while sorry to part, "time and tide wait for no man." At the close of the proceedings the band struck up the intensely suggestive air, "Should auld acquaintance be forgot," the familiar strains of which recalled, to all present, memories of many pleasant parades under Colonel Leitch, tinged, however, with a feeling of sadness and regret at the loss of such an able and popular commander.

Colonel Leitch was succeeded, in the command, by the writer, after an apprenticeship of thirty-four years, ten of which were rank service and twenty-four as a commissioned officer. Like Colonel Leitch, he passed through every rank in the service, and so had a practical acquaintance with every department.

About this time an attempt was made to open up Kelly Street and Finnart Street, a much needed improvement, but which could only be effected at the expense of the Volunteers. The Superior, with his usual kindness to the Volunteers, had pledged himself to retain the ground, as an enclosed space, so long as it was useful to them. The time is now near at hand when the streets may be opened up, as the site so generously given by Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, for the new Drill Hall, will remove the difficulty out of the way.

CHAPTER XXIII.

THE Volunteer officers' decoration, bestowed by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, in 1892, was the occasion of a great gathering in the Town Hall. To use the conventional phrase, it was packed from floor to ceiling, and there was a very fine muster of the battalion. The presentation was made by the Brigadier, Sir Donald Mathieson, K.C.B., who was received with the general salute. He was followed by Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Bart., Lord Lieutenant of the County and Hon. Colonel of the regiment; Colonel Ross, Colonel Leitch, Colonel Lamont (in command of the regiment), Lieut.-Colonel John Stewart, Lieut.-Colonel Tannahill, and other officers. The Brigadier said that this decoration, which was really an Order, was the beginning of a new era in the history of volunteering, which in his young days was looked upon with scorn. The glorious success of the Volunteer movement had led up to this new order of things, and now they were looked upon as part of the regular armament of the country. He then affixed the decoration on the breasts of the following officers: Hon. Colonel Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, Bart., Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel William Lamont, Major and Hon. Lieut.-Colonel John Stewart, Major and Hon. Lieut.-Colonel James Tannahill, Captain and Hon. Major J. K. Stewart, Captain and Hon. Major J. T. Wilson, Rothesay; Captain and Hon. Major R. W. Livingston, Port-Glasgow; Captain and Hon. Major J. M'Isaac, Rothesay; Colonels Ross and Leitch, Major H. W. Walker, and Surgeon-Major W. J. Marshall, all on the retired list.

Colonel Lamont thereafter conveyed the thanks of the officers of the battalion to the Brigadier, as the representative of Her Majesty, for this official recognition of the services of the various recipients.

He was sure each would prize his decoration and guard it with jealous care. This decoration is now all the more valuable that it has ceased to be given, and is supplanted by the Territorial Forces Decoration. We may mention that Colonel Latham had his conferred *in absentia*, and that Sir Michael set so much store on his that he affixed it on his Lord Lieutenant's sash, as can be seen in the fine portrait of him presented by the county, and painted by Professor Hubert Herkomer, R.A. This picture adorns the walls of the County Buildings, Paisley, and a replica of it is to be seen in the ancestral home of Ardgowan.

Colonel Lamont concluded his speech, at the presentation of the decorations, by saying: "I have only to express the hope that the Queen will be so advised that she will still further recognise and honour the Volunteer Force by bestowing a decoration similar to what we have received to-night on the non-commissioned officers or sergeants who have been distinguished for zeal and efficiency, and many of whom have proved themselves the backbone of the corps."

The Queen, as every one knows, took the advice, and went even a step further by conferring a medal on every man, be he sergeant or no, who could show twenty years' good and efficient service; and this honour has led to better and longer service on the part of the Volunteers.

In 1893, Captain Dudley Strathearn Stewart, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, was appointed adjutant of the battalion, and a most efficient and popular one he proved to be. When he rejoined his regiment, at the expiry of his tour of duty, the battalion followed his career with interest in South Africa, and were delighted when he emerged from that eventful campaign scathless, in command of his regiment, the Fighting Fifth, with the decoration of a Companion of the Bath conferred on him by His Majesty.

It was during his adjutancy in the 1st R.R.V. that the very interesting Battle of Lawfield took place. It was so named because the general idea was that an invading force had landed at Greenock, was advancing on Paisley from the north-west, and had driven back the defending force, which had retired somewhere in the direction of Houston. The officer in command of the defence was to make as much display of his forces as possible, the farmhouse at Lawfield was to be held at all cost, and he was to try and prevent the enemy from gaining a position on the Kilmacolm-Houston Road, covering Lawfield Farm. Lieut.-Colonel Tannahill was in command of the defending and Lieut.-Colonel John Stewart of the attacking force.

Even at this period of time the scene rises before one's eyes, especially if familiar, as some of us were, with the happy hunting-ground of the Lanark and Renfrew Foxhounds. Rowan Tree Hill, the place of muster, Elphiston and Barlogan Woods, Muirhouse Plantation, and High Barlogan, were all well-known spots. The attackers were five companies strong, against three companies with the defending force, so that a great deal of scouting was done on both sides, both feeling their way very cautiously. Eventually, however, Colonel Stewart's scouts viewed the defenders' left flank and centre, and opened a well-developed fire on them, with C and D Companies reinforcing. The battle was now general, and a stubborn fight ensued. The attacking force poured volley after volley into the ranks of the defenders, who were gradually driven back on Lawfield Farm, their chief point of defence. Colonel Stewart almost pierced through the communications beyond the left flank of the defence; but just at the psychological moment the bugles sounded the "cease fire," and the fight was over.

We had a most satisfactory day, and at the close of it a little piquancy was added to the mimic warfare

when a young N.C.O. marched in with a few prisoners, the buglers playing "See the conquering hero comes." A fine muster, a beautiful day, and successful manœuvres on the part of all engaged, made—to our mind at least—the Battle of Lawfield one to be congratulated on, and not like some of the large operations at the beginning of the movement, which were very much of a "fizzle."

The Annual Inspections in those days were a source of great interest to the general public, and a splendid recruiting agency for the Force. Like the football teams, every company had its followers, and a spirit of emulation in the March Past and at the Battalion Drill was generated, which had a potent influence on the battalion as a whole. As many as 10,000 spectators have been present at our Inspection at Battery Park.

The uniform question is also a serious one as affecting recruiting, and the adoption of khaki has not helped matters either in the Territorials or in the Army. The South African fever has led to a great many changes in uniform and drill which are not suitable for a home defence force. The conditions of active service would be different, we presume, and we should like to see some elasticity in our Army system, and not have everything conformed to South African experience, as if we would never have any foes to face but the Boers.

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE Artillery and the Rifles had a very useful combined drill early in December, 1892. It was remarkable for the fact that the last time both corps paraded in St. Andrew Square was on the 10th March, 1863, the occasion being the marriage of the Prince of Wales. The Officer Commanding the Rifles on the later date was the only one who had been present on both occasions. The muster was at Fort Matilda. "The idea was that an enemy's ship, a torpedo searcher, had been able to come up the Clyde; that she had found means to disconnect some of the submarine mines, and was about to force a passage farther up the river. The fire from the guns of the Fort, however, compelled her to retire. Meantime, the disposition of the main body of the troops for route marching was being proceeded with. The idea was to form an escort or convoy for artillery, through a supposed enemy's country."

An advanced guard and vanguard were formed by two companies of the Rifles, followed by another company of the same battalion. These were succeeded by the Mounted Battery of Position, with their four 40-pounder breech-loading guns, the Garrison Battery acting as a guard on each flank. Behind the Artillery were two companies of the Rifles, one of which formed the rearguard. This proved a most instructive and interesting march out.

The combination, we presume, led to the marching competition on New Year's Day, 1893, in which both corps took part. This was the first of its kind in Scotland, and proved to a demonstration the splendid stamina and physique of the Volunteers. The route was what is popularly known as "Round the Cloch," from Cathcart Square, with a break of thirty minutes at "Haddow's" for light refreshment. Eight teams

put in an appearance, three representing the Artillery and five the Rifles. The day was an ideal one, frosty and bright, and the manner in which the various detachments covered the ground was beyond all praise. The Artillery and C Company tied for first place, having marched the 13 miles, in undress, with equipment, in 2 hours and 46 minutes. A team of buglers did the distance in 2 hours and 47 minutes ; but, as they had only their wind instruments over their shoulders, it is little wonder that they went like the wind. Crowds of townspeople turned out to witness the spectacle, and the Lord-Lieutenant, Sir M. R. Shaw Stewart, was an interested spectator at Dunrod Farm ; while Lady Octavia and Miss Shaw Stewart drove over to the Cloch Inn, where they were received by the officers.

The Battle of Knaps Moor took place on the 27th April, 1896, and was the only engagement of the kind which ever took place between the 1st and 2nd Renfrew. It was carried out in magnificent weather. Greenock formed the defending force, and took up a position on Knaps Moor in order to protect the retreat of a force retiring from Kilmacolm to the north. The Paisley battalion formed the attacking force, the special idea being that it formed portion of a force pursuing the rearguard of the enemy, which had retired north from Bridge-of-Weir. The Officer Commanding the 2nd Battalion had received information that the enemy's rearguard had taken up a position on Knaps Moor, south of Kilmacolm. He was to endeavour to drive them back on Kilmacolm, and, if possible, gain possession of the high ground on Knaps Moor, for which purpose he would be assisted by other portions of the force on his right and left flanks.

The honours of war fell to the Greenock battalion, as it successfully carried out the duty it was called upon to perform. Captain Paton, in command of B Company, had succeeded in taking possession of a

knoll on the moor, which was regarded as the key of the position. He was ably supported by C, D, and E Companies. The two attacking companies (Paisley) skilfully led at the start, and taking advantage of all natural cover, by some strange overlook came out into the open and rushed for the shelter of a wall or dyke immediately in front of the knoll occupied by B Company. They paid dearly for their mistake. Instantly C and D Companies enfiladed them, pouring volley after volley into their flanks. In actual warfare they would have been annihilated. They pressed on, however, and on reaching the cover of the dyke an almost hand-to-hand encounter took place. It was understood that in consequence of their mistake, to use a mild term, the umpires ruled them out of action. The line of defence was thus maintained, and the position was found to be practically impregnable. So ended the Battle of Knaps Moor.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE death of Lieut.-Colonel John Stewart, in the year 1897, was felt most acutely by the whole battalion. He was a consistent Volunteer from the year 1859, was possessed of strong military instincts, and had made the science of war his special study. In all the military operations of the battalion he was regarded as an expert, and his talent as an artist was often utilised in sketching the plans of the proposed field days, for the use of officers. He had passed through the ranks of the corps, and there was not much he did not know, either of its strong points or its weaknesses. He was a unique personality, and a universal favourite. His removal left a blank which has never been filled.

On the 31st March, 1897, the strength of the battalion stood at 909, being two above the authorised establishment. In April of this year about 700 officers and men turned out to fight the Battle of Loch Fad, in Bute, where the regiment had a sham fight nine years before. We were conveyed to Rothesay in the troopship *Marchioness of Breadalbane*, specially chartered for the occasion. The weather may be described as beautiful. Thanks to the late Marquis of Bute, we were permitted to operate on a wide tract of country between Barone Hill and Loch Fad, admirably suited for outpost and field work. The general idea was that an enemy had landed at St. Ninian's Bay, and was moving its advanced guard on the hills above Loch Fad, with the object of attacking and occupying Rothesay. The details of the engagement we need not go into, but the defence and crossing of the causeway over Loch Fad was an episode which cannot be forgotten. It was difficult to concentrate one's thoughts on warfare amid such a lovely country ; nevertheless,

sentiment was thrown to the winds, and eventually both forces were hotly engaged. The obstacles, in the form of barbed wire fences, stone dykes, etc., somewhat retarded the movements of the troops ; so give and take, or advance and retire, was the order of the day, and flanking movements were occasionally foiled.

Major J. K. Stewart, who commanded the attackers, in the end was on the point of assembling his forces, with the evident intention of piercing the centre of the defence, and Colonel Tannahill was preparing for an obstinate resistance, when, amid the loud rattle of musketry, the bugles sounded the "cease fire," and the engagement was suddenly brought to a termination. The fight was a good one and well carried out, but we all felt that the ground was much too extensive for the force employed.

General E. F. Chapman was at this time in command of the Forces in Scotland, and few officers in that position were more useful and more kindly disposed to the Volunteers than he. The following correspondence is alike creditable to him and to our chaplain at that time :—

"The Rev. Dr. Hugh Macmillan.

Headquarters, Scottish District,
Edinburgh, 8th Feby., 1897.

Dear Sir,—I am extremely anxious to obtain the assistance of the clergy of the several Churches in Scotland in recruiting for the Army, and I write to you to ask if you could help me, with the clergy of the Free Church. I think there still exists, especially in the more remote parts of the Highlands, a strong prejudice against the Army as a profession for the young men of the country. This prejudice existed for a long time in England, but I am glad to say fuller knowledge of the conditions under which men now serve in the Army has in that country done much to remove such prejudice, and recruiting officers as a rule receive ready assistance from the clergy of all denominations in England. These clergy realise that a great change has come over the Army of late years. Men are looked

after in their barrack rooms and when off parade by the officers, chaplains, and Scripture readers in a way never dreamt of in years gone by. Temperance associations are formed, and every endeavour is made to induce the young soldier of the present day to lead a healthy and manly life. He is encouraged to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered to him, and many do so take advantage. The clergy of England recognise this, and realise that far from the Army being the moral and social ruin of any young man enlisting, it in many cases proves the salvation of many a young man who would otherwise become a loafer, and it offers to any steady young man joining it a chance of improving his social position such as few openings in civil life offer. I want to bring the clergy of Scotland to the same way of thinking; and to attain this end with the Free Church Clergy I appeal to you for assistance.—Yours sincerely,

E. F. CHAPMAN."

"The Moderator-Elect of the Free Church of Scotland.

Greenock, 10th February, 1897.

Dear General,—I believe, as you say, that the old unreasonable prejudice in regard to enlisting as a soldier has to a large extent passed away. It seems to me to have been always stronger in the Lowlands than in the Highlands. The Army was always a favourite profession in the latter country, which has yielded the bravest officers and best men. As one of the chaplains of the 1st (R.) V.B.A. and S.H., I have always in my addresses at the Church Parade expressed my high approval as a Christian and a patriot of the services of the soldier in the community. There is no service, I hold, that can make finer men and nobler Christians. It was the Roman Army which acted as a moral sect which preserved the Empire when it was hastening to decay through its luxurious vice. The Centurions of the troops and the famous Theban Legion were specimens of them. When could there be grander heroes than many of the soldiers who gained and saved our Indian Empire? The great characteristic of the profession of arms is that it puts a strong sense of duty above anything else, and that a man is prepared to sacrifice to it comfort, pleasure, and even life itself, at a moment's notice, and on this strong sense of duty may be built up the finest character, and I rejoice to know that the old evils are now being eliminated and that the moral and social advantages which are now placed within the reach of the common soldier are such as to encourage in every way the

formation of such a character. You are free, therefore, to make whatever use you please of this opinion of mine.—I am, yours faithfully,

HUGH MACMILLAN.

To General E. F. Chapman, C.B."

The South African war has done much to remove the prejudice against the soldier ; but even more than that the existence and fraternising of the Volunteer has brought the soldier nearer the heart of the nation, and given him a standing which he did not previously occupy. The clergy of Scotland, of all denominations, are the best friends of the Army, and very curiously it is the Church of Dr. Macmillan which was called upon to fill the post of Chaplain to the Forces in Scotland. This it did by appointing the Rev. Dr. Mackay of Wick to the oversight of the soldiers, both on service and on their retiral, and this he does in the most thorough and systematic way.

CHAPTER XXVI.

THE question of camps was long a vexed one with the Volunteers, and is now with the Territorial Force. To begin with, Englishmen, at the War Office, can never be got to understand that Scotland has no national holidays suitable for camping out, and that almost every town, or district, selects the date which fits in with local conditions. To attempt to force a Battalion into a Brigade Camp at a date other than that coinciding with the local holidays, is absurd in the extreme.

We received a rude shock, in April, 1894, when it was announced by the War Office that no more regimental camps would be allowed, unless the regiment was prepared to go to Aldershot. Rather than abandon the pet project of Brigade Camps, the War Office of that day was prepared to squander thousands of pounds of public money, in railway transit to Aldershot of the Scottish Volunteers. The thing could not hold water. So, after a protest on the part of the officers commanding Battalions (the 1st Renfrew among the rest), the undignified policy of "scuttle" was adopted by the War Office, and the camping question remained in *statu quo*, or as a Highland officer is reported to have said to his men "As you was before you were."

The differential payment, between a Regimental and a Brigade Camp, was also felt as a great grievance. The Battalion, on at least one occasion, was deprived of its proper allowance through no fault of its own. Although arrangements had been made for a Brigade Camp, and extra expenditure occurred on that account, yet, because all the other regiments withdrew, except the Greenock one, it was docked of the difference between the Regimental and Brigade Camp, amounting to about £80. We knocked loudly,

in propria persona, both at the Scottish Office in Edinburgh and the War Office in the Mall, but we received nothing except courtesy. Lots of that, but no cash, as the Department was bound in red tape, and the literal interpretation of the regulations must be rigidly adhered to. Verily, we had hard taskmasters to reckon with.

The question of the defence of the Clyde has been a burning one for about twenty years, and if allowed to remain as it presently stands, may some day lead to a conflagration of a material kind. As far back as 1888, a Glasgow committee was formed, with Sir John Burns and Sir Donald Mathieson as joint conveners; and at their invitation representatives of both the Admiralty and War Office visited the Clyde and had a conference with the committee. The only defence of the Clyde, at that time, was at Fort Matilda, and consisted of a system of submarine mines, laid in the channel by a force of Volunteer Submarine Miners, under the supervision of a small force of Royal Engineers, and which was intended to be protected by quick-firing machine guns.

All parties were agreed that this was totally inadequate for such an important estuary as the Clyde; but the cool suggestions of the Admiralty and the War Office were that the locality should furnish the means of fitting out and manning tugs, or small steam vessels for patrolling the front of the mine-field, these vessels to be manned by the Volunteer Submarine Miners, and be capable of receiving an armament of light guns; provide sites for batteries and other military works; and form a committee to organise local defensive forces, etc., etc. The Glasgow committee were not enamoured of these proposals, as one could imagine, and suggested that the first line of defence should be situated at the island of Little Cumbrae, and should consist of two forts on that island, one on the north end at Muggie Point to

defend the Fairlie and Largs channel, and one on the south end, with another on the opposite shore at Garroch Head, on the Island of Bute, supplemented by a Brennan torpedo station there.

None of these suggestions were adopted, so we find, in the year 1896, the Greenock Town Council and Chamber of Commerce uniting in a memorial to the Admiralty endorsing the finding of the Glasgow Committee of 1888. In addition, they called upon the Government to provide ready means, by the construction of a Government graving dock, for the repair of any of Her Majesty's ships which may be damaged while engaged in coast defence. The answer from Sir Arthur Haliburton, as representing the War Office, was a most extraordinary one. It was to the effect that the river was already protected by submarine mines and quick-firing guns, but that the construction of other batteries in the neighbourhood of Gourock, Kilcreggan, and Portkil had been under the consideration of the Government *for some years* in connection with the general defensive schemes of the Empire. It is pleasing to add that, after the lapse of a few more years, something has at last been done. Portkil and Ardhalow have been constructed and armed with guns capable of carrying about seven miles, and light guns have been placed in Fort Matilda, although it has been abandoned as an artillery fort. The much-vaunted submarine mines have been lifted, and the good work of many years done by the Miners has been voted a mistake, while thousands of pounds of public money have been wasted in buildings, plant, and equipment.

The protection of the Navy, which was regarded as quite good enough for Clyde defence, has been altogether withdrawn, and as far as we know there is no system of naval defence allotted to the Clyde. The forts at Fort Matilda, Portkil, and Ardhalow, valuable though they be, are not sufficient. Signalling

stations, at least, are required farther down the river, as otherwise we are at the mercy of an enemy's ship which might slip through the Kyles unobserved, and shell Gourock and Greenock. Of course we are told that, owing to the mobility of our fleet, such a contingency is impossible; but the unexpected often happens, and the small boy has the window broken before the policeman arrives on the scene.

Following up the joint memorial to the Admiralty, the Greenock Harbour Trust offered the Government a site suitable for a Government graving dock, and we had the honour of forming one of a "large and influential deputation" which waited on the First Lord (Mr. Goschen) to urge the graving dock scheme; but he was impervious. May better success attend our next attack, as it is simply scandalous that there is not a graving dock in all broad Scotland where, in time of war, a ship of the Dreadnought type could be repaired.

At this time the battalion had a very smart Cyclist Section, which was subsequently increased to the strength of a company, and a very full one, too. They were a very useful lot for scouting and intelligence work—in fact, an ideal force; but the ruthless hand of the destroyer was laid on them too. By War Office orders, the Cyclist Company was subsequently disbanded. District Battalions of Cyclists alone are sanctioned, as if these could not be readily mobilised from the Cyclist Companies when required. The disappearance of the cyclists was like the loss of an eye to the battalion, and up till now no artificial substitute has been found.

The Mounted Infantry Sections were similarly treated by the Government, and after a large expenditure, from which the Greenock Battalion was mercifully delivered, were politely told that if they wished to continue their services they must transfer them to the nearest Yeomanry corps. To do the War Office

justice, however, their generous treatment of the Yeomanry was in marked contrast to that of the Infantry Volunteers. In fact, more generosity than judgment was shown, and many men who were not considered eligible at the time of the South African War, for the Active Service Companies, were freely accepted for the Imperial Yeomanry, and put in receipt of much higher pay than was given the "foot slogger." This was a decided injustice to the latter, and indirectly a "wipe in the eye" to the Commanding officers, to whom was given the invidious task of selecting men with a high standard of physical qualifications. It was resented keenly by many of the conscientious and hard-working Commanding officers, and was not calculated to strengthen the bonds of discipline.

Occasionally we received a little welcome encouragement from the Inspecting Officer, which was equivalent to the proverbial cup of cold water. Colonel Sunderland, among the rest, was one of the best friends of the battalion, and at the close of one of his inspections he spoke very warmly of the appearance of the battalion. "He did not think he had ever seen a Volunteer Regiment turn out so well as they had done. He had seen a good many Volunteer Regiments march past, but he had never seen one that marched past better." Marching past is not everything, but may be regarded as an indication of drill and discipline, and in those days we had to content ourselves with that.

CHAPTER XXVII.

THE Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, on Tuesday, the 22nd June, 1897, afforded the Volunteers an opportunity of distinction, and they were not slow to avail themselves of it. For some reason or another, public spirit seemed to be dead in Greenock at that time, and no move was made by the Town Council or any of the men of "light and leading" in the community to celebrate that most unique occasion. On the Sunday previous a church parade was held in the Town Hall, when the Rev. Dr. Macmillan gave a memorable address on Revelation ii. and 10: "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." At the close of his able sermon, he spoke in the following terms: "My brother Volunteers, you are the soldiers of a Queen who has been faithful, ever since her accession to the throne, to her coronation oath. We have indeed a noble example set before us in the faithfulness of our Royal mistress. Let us seek to be as faithful to our lowly duties as she has been to her lofty ones."

On Tuesday, at noon, there was a combined review parade of the Artillery, the Highlanders, and the Submarine Miners. The Artillery fired a salute of twenty-one guns, and the Highlanders a *feu-de-joie*. Between 700 and 800 men were on parade, and this display of loyalty was a very effective one. At the close of the parade the battalion marched back to town, and dined together in the Town Hall. As it was thirty years since there had been a similar "engagement," the most was made of it, and time sped on with marvellous celerity, as the Volunteers showed to a demonstration that they could never be defeated either in speech or song.

We had ventured to appeal through the Press for subscriptions and materials for a huge bonfire on the Lyle Road, and for a series of illuminations worthy the occasion. The response was most generous. Not only were the means provided, but the men likewise, in the most whole-hearted way. A willing band of Volunteers, under Colour-Sergeant Adam, and a squad of men sent up by Messrs. Caird & Co., the well-known shipbuilders, were not long in erecting an imposing pile, twenty-five feet high, on the Esplanade of the Lyle Road. On the night of the 22nd, by arrangements with the Jubilee Bonfire Committee of the United Kingdom, at 10.25, a detonating rocket was fired, and shortly afterwards a magnesium light was shown. Then the huge bonfire was lit, the band at the same time striking up the National Anthem. Following upon this, there was a grand pyrotechnic display of rockets, streamers, candles, and prismatic lights. The scene was rather a weird one, the bonfire blazing up to a great height and lighting up the faces of the thousands of spectators who crowded the neighbourhood. The night was an ideal one for the purpose, and east, west, north, and south, the sky was aglow with light. From the top of the Lyle Road no fewer than ten or twelve bonfires could be distinctly seen—one at Gourock, one on the Whinhill, one at Port-Glasgow, one each at Dumbarton, Helensburgh, Rosneath, and Kilcreggan, one at Dunoon, one Innellan way, and the glare of one at Inverkip, and of another on Barone Hill in Bute.

The battalion had now arrived at the mature age of thirty-eight years, and seemed fit for anything. Certainly the way they carried through the Jubilee celebrations was a matter for congratulation, and made the commemoration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in Greenock an event not soon forgotten. From noon till night everything went "merry as a marriage bell," and, to quote a local poet :—

“ Now slowly the crowd disperses
 From the western hill,
 Which ends a great eventful day,
 All seem happy, and all seem gay,
 As each one takes his homeward way
 From the western hill.”

Not long after the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, occurred the jubilee of our Hon. Colonel, Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, Bart. As in duty bound, the officers of the Battalion presented him, at Ardgowan, where he was surrounded by his family, with an address of congratulation on the happy event. The following is a transcript :—

“Unto Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, Baronet,
 Honorary Colonel of the 1st (Renfrew) Volunteer
 Battalion Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland
 Highlanders, Lord-Lieutenant of the County of
 Renfrew.

Dear Sir Michael,—The officers and members of the 1st (Renfrew) V.B. Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders desire to congratulate you on attaining your jubilee as Superior of the Greenock estates, and gratefully to acknowledge your services to all public movements which had for their aim the welfare and happiness of the whole community. When the Volunteer Force sprang into being you were one of the earliest to take an active interest in it, and when the scattered companies of Rifle Volunteers formed in Greenock and neighbourhood were combined into an Administrative Battalion in the year 1860, you were appointed the first Lieut.-Colonel in command of the Battalion. This position you filled with credit to yourself and advantage to the Battalion till you were appointed by Her Majesty Lord-Lieutenant of the County, when the Battalion was still further honoured by your accepting the Honorary Colonelcy. You have always shown the greatest interest in the well-being and efficiency of the Battalion, and it is indebted to you in a marked degree for the high position it has taken in rifle shooting, as well as for the facilities it enjoys for drill at the parade ground and the Battery Park. It is the sincere desire of every officer and member of the Battalion that you may be long spared to adorn the high position you so worthily occupy, and that every blessing may attend yourself and your family. We

have the honour to be, dear Sir Michael, your most obedient and humble servants,

WILLIAM LAMONT, Lieut.-Colonel and Hon. Colonel.

JAMES TANNAHILL, Major and Hon. Lieut.-Colonel.

JAMES K. STEWART, Major and Hon. Lieut.-Colonel.

DUDLEY S. STEWART, Major and Adjutant."

Sir Michael made a very happy reply to the address, and reminded us of the fact that the Greenock corps was one of the first, if not the first, enrolled in Scotland. At first the battalion had not come to the front in shooting, and this, it was said, was owing to the position of the range. However, despite that fact, the shooting for many years past had greatly improved, and the battalion had distinguished itself in prize shooting and otherwise. As to drill, the 1st Battalion was always second to none, and he was glad to know that it still maintained its reputation for that, as was testified by Colonel Sunderland, who said that the last inspection was the best the battalion had had during his command of the district.

It may be as well to mention here that while the Greenock corps was one of the first to enrol in 1859, and was certainly in embryo long before that date, we believe the Advocates' Company in Edinburgh was really the first to be licked into shape, and was busy at drill before the Greenock companies. The Advocates' Company has long ceased to exist, and has left no natural successors, so Greenock can truthfully claim, without fear of contradiction, to have the oldest Volunteer Corps in Scotland—another case of the survival of the fittest.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

THE battle of Bannatyne Mains took place in the spring of 1898, and was another very useful tactical exercise, no fewer than the historical number 600, of the battalion, taking part. The object was to prevent a force landing at Ettrick Bay, but it effected its purpose and pushed on to Port Bannatyne. Severe fighting, which reminded one of the Franco-German War, took place in front of the woods above, and south of, Bannatyne Mains Farm.

The action commenced with a brush between the opposing cyclists. The vanguard sighted the enemy on the road, in front, and quickly got into position behind a hedge. The attackers, who shall be nameless, had undoubtedly the best of it, and occupied the Bannatyne Mains Farm, and in doing so had secured the key to the town and the pier. A vigorous attack was made on the invaders by a company well concealed among the brushwood, but they were soon checked by a force of the attackers doubling along the avenue, getting into a strong position and opening a galling fire on the enemy's right flank, which soon withdrew.

Meanwhile, on the right of the attack, about 200 men had advanced by Achlater Farm and crept up, under cover, to the north side of Bulicheodan Wood. The wood and a long wall to the left were then occupied in force by the invaders, and a hot fire poured into the defence. The latter was thus practically surrounded, and, in the din of musketry, the whistles sounded the "Cease Fire," and hostilities terminated. Thus ended the battle of Bannatyne Mains. Although the details may be uninteresting to the general reader, they are written for the benefit of those who were present, most of whom have passed out of the force.

In these "good old times," we had the power and privilege of arranging and carrying out these tactical exercises without the fear of the Territorial Association before our eyes. They were a great help both to officers and men, and, on the principle that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," they were a bright relief to the limited facilities of the Park and the Drill Hall, and made one of the best recruiting agencies to the battalion. A good Drill Hall is one of the best adjuncts to a Volunteer corps, and it is only because of its inherent vitality and *esprit de corps* that the battalion has survived and flourished without any such aids to recruiting and comfort.

Like the Children of Israel, the Gourock Company had wandered for 40 years in the wilderness, and had tabernacled in erections of the flimsiest description; but in 1899, through the exertions of the officers and the help of the ladies of Gourock and neighbourhood, a commodious and handsome Drill Hall was opened for their accommodation. The battalion went down to the house-warming, and the greatest interest was shown by the townspeople in the happy event. Gourock is in the proud position of having the finest Drill Hall in the battalion, and the possession of such headquarters should be an incentive to the youth of the town to join such a vigorous and go-ahead company.

Although, strictly speaking, the drilling of the Board Schools does not come under the category of Volunteering, we cannot forbear, at this stage, remarking on the high standard of excellence they attained. Their teacher instructors were chiefly Volunteers; their paid instructor was a staff-sergeant of Volunteers; and the Inspecting officers, who had the honour of being umpires in the annual competitions, were almost invariably officers of Volunteers.

Few "events" in Greenock caused more pardon-

able interest and excitement than the annual drill competition among the Board Schools. We are sure the hearts of many "old boys" will warm at the bare mention of the fact, and their blood tingles at the remembrance of the many incidents of the day, big with fate to them and their school. The warm summer day, the crowded field—somewhat resembling a football match—the parents and partisans of the various companies—all went to make up an ineffaceable scene. The drill was perfection, and Regulars and Volunteers by comparison were not in it. Major Grier, who on his retiral from the battalion was appointed to the superintendence of the Church Lads Brigade in the Isle of Man by the Bishop of the Diocese, informed us that nothing he ever saw surpassed the drill of the Greenock school boys.

Doubtless for good and sufficient reasons, the competition was dropped. At the same time, we take leave to say, its discontinuance has been a retrograde step, and its absence a felt want among, to use an old expression, "the young and rising generation." General Chapman, who was then in command of the troops in Scotland, at the invitation of the School Board, inspected the battalion of boys drawn from the Board schools, which paraded 360, numbered off into eight companies. Despite the proverbial Greenock weather, the inspection was in every respect satisfactory, and the General was highly pleased with the drill and physical exercises of the boys.

We omitted to mention, when writing of Mr Allan Park Paton, that he presented to the officers' mess a military march composed by George Thomson, the well-known friend of the poet Burns, and dedicated to the Loyal Greenock Volunteers of 1793. The MS. of the music Mr. Paton found among some papers, in a perfect state of preservation. It is now framed and hung up in the officers' quarters.



THE PIPE BAND.

CHAPTER XXIX.

IN the year 1899 the storm-clouds began to gather in South Africa, and in view of possibilities of a brush with Brer Boer, reinforcements were being hastily transported for service in that country. Greenock is not often the port of embarkation, but as it happened, the transport *Ranee* was sent to the James Watt Dock to ship a squadron of that historical regiment, the Scots Greys (the 2nd Dragoons)—*Nulli secundus*, second to none—a regiment we are all proud of. The battalion gave them a hearty send-off. The Commanding Officer paid them an official visit, and the brass and pipe bands played them out of the dock. The sight was a magnificent one. The quay was black with sightseers, flags and bunting were displayed from the shipping and yards, and the Scots Greys covered the *Ranee's* decks, some even mounting the rigging in their enthusiasm. The bands meanwhile played patriotic airs, and when the transport arrived at the dock gates they struck up "Auld Lang Syne," followed by the National Anthem, the soldiers and those on shore joining in, while the male portion of the onlookers uncovered. The demonstration continued all along the quay front to Princes Pier. Greenock, thanks to the 1st Renfrew, gave a farewell to the gallant troopers such as few seaports did. When we think of it, the occasion was a pathetic one, as many of those hearty, cheering troopers were taking farewell of their native land to find graves in far South Africa.

It was during this year that the Greenock battalion laid aside the trews and donned the kilt of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, thus bringing their uniform into conformity with that of the regiment of the line, excepting the feather bonnet.

The badges worn by the regiment are a boar's head, with the motto *Ne obliviscaris* (Thou shalt not

forget) within a wreath of myrtle ; a cat with the motto *Sans peur* (Without fear) within a wreath of broom ; over all, the label as represented in the arms of the Princess Louise, and surmounted with Her Royal Highness's coronet.

The boar's head was the badge of the old 91st, or Argyllshire Highlanders, raised by the Duke of Argyll at the request of George the Third. The regiment was raised within three months from the 10th February, 1794, when the Letter of Service was granted. The corps consisted of one company of Grenadiers, one of Light Infantry, and eight Battalion Companies, the establishment being 1,102 officers and men. Levy money was allowed to the Duke of Argyll at the rate of five guineas per man for 1,064 men. The regiment was originally numbered the 98th. The first Colonel was Duncan Campbell of Lochneil, and in the first list of officers there are no less than seventeen Campbells. The uniforms of officers and men were: Officers.—Field dress: Jackets or frocks, hooked at the top through the shirt; cloth or cassimere vests; kilts, and belted plaids; black velvet stocks (buckled behind), with false collars; hair cut close and clubbed, well powdered at all parades, with rosettes on the clubs; the colour of the epaulette white, with facings yellow. Men.—Full Highland dress, facings yellow; lace black and white; yellow oval shoe buckles; the kilt and plaid green tartan, with black stripes.

In 1809 the Highland dress was discontinued. It was not till 1864 that the long-desired restoration of the Highland kit was allowed in a modified form, the kilt being withheld, which was officially notified to the regiment. The dress, as ordered in 1864 and 1869, remained the same till 1881, when the regiment lost its number, but regained the kilt on becoming the 1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The wild cat was the badge of the Sutherland High-

landers. As the 91st was practically a local regiment, we thought these details would interest our Territorial readers.

In the roll of officers of the 91st at Waterloo we observe the name of Ensign Norman Lamont, one of the forbears of the Lamonts of Knockdow, our near neighbours. He was the eighth son of James Lamont of Knockdow, served with the regiment in the South of France, and was present at the battles of Nivelles, the River Nive, Orthes, and Toulouse. The 91st missed participating actively in the great victory of Waterloo, being sent to cover a certain road which was threatened by the French. Their services were, however, considered sufficient to merit the honours and rewards of the campaign, and Norman Lamont was one of those who received the Waterloo medal. Pride of clan has prompted us to give these details of Norman Lamont's services, and we are indebted to his namesake, the late Member for Bute, for the interesting particulars.

The black December of 1899 cast a shadow over the whole United Kingdom. Scotland mourned bitterly the loss of her brave sons at Modder River and Magersfontein. The pulse of the men of Greenock beat quickly, and numerous offers of service reached us from both officers and men; but the British lion was not quite awake yet. The headquarter companies of the battalion mustered about 500 men in the Drill Hall, one evening in December, to give an opportunity for volunteering to fill up the casualties in the line regiment serving in South Africa. The scene was one of wild enthusiasm. It appeared as if the whole battalion would volunteer; but the views of the War Office were limited to the acceptance of 15 men for the Active Service Company, and 15 men for the Reserve, or Waiting, Company. In response, over 100 men volunteered for active service; and a selection had accordingly to be made. The medical examina-

tion was a stringent one, and not a few otherwise eligible men failed to pass the standard because of a defect in their molars. One of the candidates is reported to have told the medical officer that he was not going out to eat the Boers, but to shoot them. The Queen lost not a few good soldiers because of some finical objection to their back teeth. Many of these were accepted elsewhere, and one strapping young Volunteer, who was rejected for want of chest development, was accepted by the Royal Engineers, and has since been serving His Majesty in that distinguished corps. The final medical selection of the men for the front was made at Paisley by Major Ritchie, R.A.M.C. Their names are as follow :—

Corpl. John Brand, F Coy.
 Pte. W. Clark, E Coy.
 Pte. J. Dallas, G Coy.
 Pte. D. Craig, G Coy.
 Pte. T. G. Harris, E Coy.
 Pte. Arthur Holmes, F Coy.
 Pte. Finlay M'Kenzie, B Coy.
 Corpl. Thos. M'Farlane, C Coy.
 Pte. J. M'Gill, F Coy.
 Pte. James Murray, F Coy.
 Pte. George M'Arthur, F Coy.
 Pte. Ed. M'Grath, H Coy.
 Pte. J. Ormsby, F Coy.
 Corpl. J. C. Purdon, F Coy.
 Pte. J. Smith, I Coy.

WAITING MEN.

Pte. C. Currie, I Coy.
 Pte. N. Macphail, A Coy.
 Pte. D. M'Intosh, B Coy.
 Pte. A. Scorgie, E Coy.

Lieuts. Glen, Wilson, and Stewart were also medically examined and certified as fit for active service, and Chaplain the Rev. W. W. Beveridge offered himself for service at the front.

At this time a call was made on our generosity to supply comforts to the regiment in South Africa. Large sums of money, besides quantities of useful articles, were sent us for transmission to South Africa, which were all duly and thankfully acknowledged by

the Colonel commanding. Every one was at fever heat, and the amount of sympathy and kindness shown to the men who had volunteered for South Africa was a record.

The Corporation, headed by Provost Black, did a very graceful thing by presenting the selected men with commemorative gold medals. This was done in the Town Hall. So great was the enthusiasm, that after the hall was packed, thousands more demanded admission. The Provost declared it was the most interesting meeting he had ever presided at. Mr. J. W. Bailey, representative of a firm which has done nobly in many ways for the Volunteers, in a patriotic speech proposed a motion expressing admiration of the courage, public spirit, and patriotism displayed by the Volunteers for the front. The motion was carried by acclamation; and after the distribution by Provost Black of the gold medals, the immense gathering dispersed, only to be reunited again in the streets, where there were stirring scenes for several hours.

In addition to those whose names have been given, there subsequently went to South Africa :—

Lieut. R. E. Wilson, B Coy.
 Pte. James Forrest, E Coy.
 Pte. John M'Intyre, D Coy.
 Pte. James Chittick, E Coy.
 Pte. Allan C. Smith, C Coy.
 Pte. Fergus Bowman, E Coy.
 Pte. Andrew Davidson, D Coy.
 Pte. T. H. Roberts, F Coy.
 Pte. Daniel Munn, G Coy.

CHAPTER XXX.

THE most impressive church parade which has ever taken place in the history of the battalion, was on the 14th January, 1900. It took the form of a memorial service in memory of the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Highland Brigade killed in action or died on service in South Africa. It was also a send-off to the men about to proceed to the seat of war. All the companies of the regiment mustered strong, and it was calculated that about 4000 persons crowded the Town Hall. The two Chaplains and the Commanding Officer conducted the solemn service. Dr. Macmillan's sermon was a masterpiece, and was based on 1 Chron. 14th, "David's two victories over the Philistines." In his peroration he said: "We are impressively reminded, in our memorial service to-night, of the significance of the name of the valley into which David's army retired to wait for the divine signal. It was the Valley of Baca, the Valley of Weeping. And is not the far African scene of Magersfontein, deluged with the blood of our bravest soldiers, a Valley of Baca, a Valley of Weeping? Who does not realise in imagination, with a sore pain at his heart, that most touching episode in the war when the Highland Brigade laid their gallant General and their no less gallant comrades in the graves which they dug for them, and strong men, who faced death in its most appalling form without shrinking, with a manliness that unmanned them, wept and sobbed like children, while the pibroch of 'Lochaber No More' wailed its wild music over those who should never more see their native mountains and glens? Who does not think with profoundest sympathy of the widows and orphans, the fathers and mothers, whose loss of their nearest and dearest, laid in the African Machpelah,

has made our own land a Valley of Weeping? We who commemorate the dead to-night have special cause for our mourning, for the matchless brigade to which they belonged was largely composed of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, whose honoured name is proudly borne by our own local Volunteers. . . . Our heartiest wishes, which are in this case prayers indeed, accompany those of our number, the gallant little band who are about to leave Greenock to help to achieve the crowning glory. Let me conclude with the appropriate words at the close of a noble poem by a townsman of our own, Allan Park Paton, upon the "Wail of Swart Africa":—

" Father of all men, here upon my knees
 I crave Thy best of blessings unto these ;
 Spread close above this sea-crossed Northern Band
 The shelter of Thy kind Almighty hand ;
 Where they are just in battle make them strong,
 Forgive and set them right where they are wrong.
 Oh ! I have had so much to shame and sadden me,
 Can days be coming that will soothe and gladden me ?
 I do believe they come ; and cease my wail ;
 Brave British Force, my Christian Champion, Hail !
 Swart Africa."

After such an appeal can it be wondered that the offerings for the sick and wounded of the Argylls amounted to the handsome sum of £35? The never-to-be-forgotten service concluded by Pipe-Major Cameron playing "Lochaber No More."

The next stirring event in the South African drama, locally, was the departure of the Volunteers to Stirling. The enthusiasm was unparalleled in our modern history. Everyone was on the *qui vive*. The public works stopped, and the Board school children were allowed an interval to witness the unique proceedings. The principal streets were a living mass of spectators, flags were displayed everywhere, a number of the crowd carried large Union Jacks, and in front of the column the Regimental colour was displayed. The passage from the Drill Hall in Kelly Street to the Central Station was like a triumphal

procession rather than the departure of sixteen Volunteers for the front. As the men took their places in the 12.30 train, the cheering was enough to heave the rafters off the railway station, and seemed to run along the line as far as the loyal "Port."

It may be noted here that the men marched into Stirling Castle, complete in every respect, and ready to proceed to the seat of war at a moment's notice—no thanks to the military authorities. Will it be believed that the aforesaid sapient officials point blank refused to furnish the men with active service equipment, although they had stores packed with it, and left it to the poor Commanding Officer and his Quartermaster to go into the open market and buy all the little necessities for a soldier's outfit, many of which were totally unknown and unheard of before? The consequence of so many regiments going into the market was that prices went up by leaps and bounds. Like those of the heathen Chinees, the ways of the War Office are peculiar, and not calculated to effect a saving in public money.

The departure of the active service men revealed the fact that Greenock was more deeply interested in the South African war than was imagined. The police sent a valuable contingent to the Imperial Yeomanry, who subsequently did splendid service. Buchan, Barron, Webster, and Forbes are names which occur to us. Two of the very best men which Greenock sent to the Yeomanry were the brothers Ralph and William Wilson, who, during the war, were mentioned in despatches for their gallantry. Quite a number of the Collegiate boys were in the fight; among the rest Major Miller Walnutt, who fell at Ladysmith when serving with the Gay Gordons; Major Duff, who was wounded at Magersfontein; the Johnstones of Belleaire—Major Frank Buchanan Johnstone, R.A., under Lord Methuen; Charles, an officer of the 6th Carabineers, with French; and Norman, with Buller.

A son of the late Major Stewart of the Greenock battalion, Lieut. P. D. Stewart, of the Gordons, was among those severely wounded at Venter Spruit. Besides these, many of the gallant rank and file were a credit to their native town.

On account of the large number of recruits coming forward as a result of the patriotic outburst, the battalion had now exceeded its authorised establishment by 62 men, and stood at 969 of all ranks. In view of this fact, and of a recent intimation made by the Secretary of State for War, we applied for, and received, permission to increase the strength of the battalion to 1,100—viz., 1,000 officers and men, together with a company of cyclists 100 strong. To this strength the battalion was very speedily raised—1,100 officers and men—a very creditable establishment considering the existence in Greenock of three other corps—the Naval Volunteers, the Artillery, and the Submarine Miners.

Not only did the Corporation of Greenock honour the men of the Active Service Company, but the citizens of Stirling entertained them to a banquet, and the Town Council conferred the freedom of the ancient burgh upon them. That enthusiastic shot, Colonel Wilson of Bannockburn, presided; and about 350 of the *elite* of the Regimental District were present.

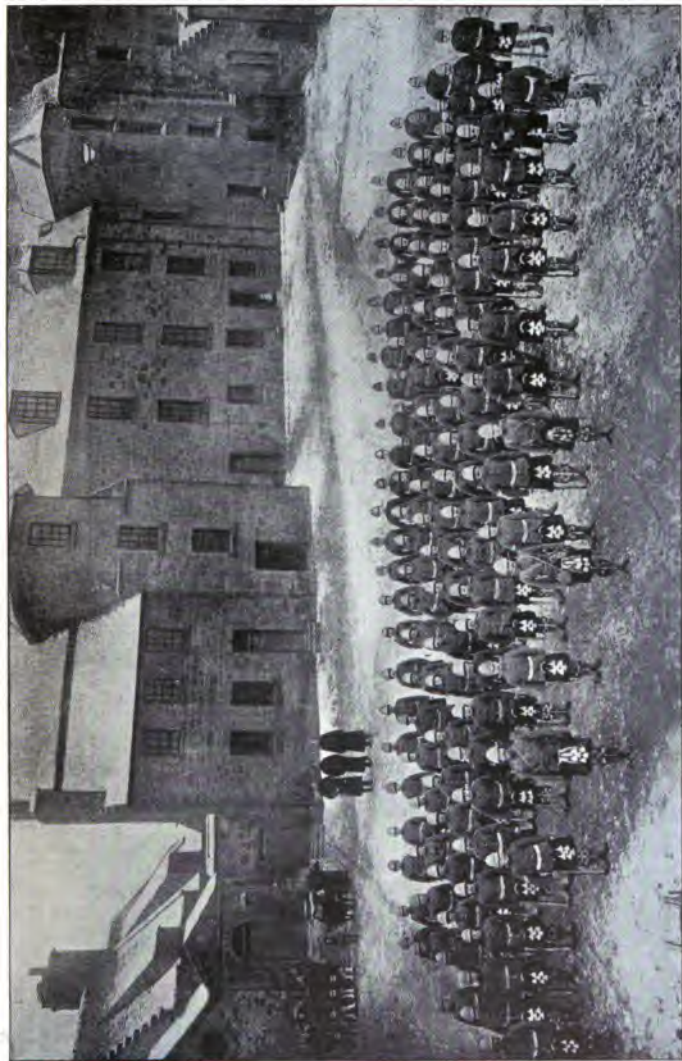
We never have forgotten the splendid appearance made by Colonel, now Sir Philip Durham Trotter, who delivered the speech of the evening. He hit upon a very good thing when he said that he thought the sudden awakening of the country, and of the War Office in particular, to the virtues of the Volunteers, proved the truth of the adage: "If you keep a thing long enough you are always sure to find a use for it." They had kept the Volunteers, or rather the Volunteers had kept themselves, ever since the concluding years of the eighteenth century. When he said they had

found a use for them, he wholly dissociated himself from those who said that they had done nothing up till now ; because he held that the Volunteers, in conjunction with the Navy, saved the country from invasion fifty years ago. They had enabled our rulers to put a bold front before all the nations of Europe. And now, notwithstanding the snubs and cold water which had been showered upon them for many years, they had been thought fit to fight shoulder to shoulder with the *elite* of the British Army. Words such as these, coming from such a distinguished and hard-working officer as Colonel Trotter, were worth going from Greenock to hear.

During their training at Stirling the Active Service Company encountered more than their share of inclement weather, frost and snow alternating, and on the occasion of their final inspection by General Chapman the ordeal was a very severe one. Not only were they drilled and drilled again ; but they were ordered to take off all their equipment—which, as Tommy says, made them look like a blooming Christmas tree—and with benumbed fingers pick it up from the snow-covered ground and put it on again as fast as they could. It reminded one of the foot race at Camp, where all the boots are taken off and thrown indiscriminately in a heap.

However it was all done well, and the General congratulated Colonel Trotter in being able to produce such a splendid company for the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. The company left Stirling in a snowstorm on Thursday afternoon, 15th February, 1900, and although more accustomed to the departure of troops than Greenock, yet Stirling turned out in its thousands, who lined the streets from the Castle, and gave the men an enthusiastic send-off.

No sooner were they gone, than the reserve detachment of the Battalion, numbering one officer



THE 1ST ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY AT STIRLING CASTLE.

and twenty men, were passed by Colonel Trotter, O.C. 91st R.D. Other twenty-five men were in waiting, and Colonel Trotter paid the Battalion the high compliment of saying that, whenever he required men, he knew where to come. The reserve contingent consisted of one officer, one colour-sergeant-instructor, and nineteen privates.

The officer in command, Lieut. Arthur E. Stewart, is a son of the late Lieut.-Colonel John Stewart, and his after conduct fully justified his appointment. At the close of the South African campaign, we had the honour of nominating him for a commission in the Regular Service. He was appointed to the Royal Highlanders, otherwise the Black Watch, or "Gallant Forty-Twa." As he had designs on the Indian Army, he subsequently transferred, after passing the necessary examinations, and is now a captain in the 124th Duchess of Connaught's Own Baluchistan Infantry, and a credit to his old Battalion.

Lieut. Stewart was accompanied to Stirling by

Corporal John M'Intyre, D Coy.,
Private Neil Macphail, D Coy., and
Private James Fulton, H Coy.

In due course they sailed, by the s.s. Assaye, for South Africa, to join the Active Service Company at the front.

The necessities of the times, and the enhanced value of the Volunteers at this period of national stress, brought to the front the question of the formation of a Volunteer Reserve. The Secretary for War directed inquiry to be made of Commanding Officers as to a suggestion put forward for the formation of a Volunteer Reserve, composed of ex efficient Volunteers, who should be liable to rejoin when called upon in a national emergency. The consensus of opinion was against the formation of such a force, so the matter was allowed to drop *pro*

tem. After the lapse of ten years the Army Council has formulated a scheme for the establishment of a Reserve, which shall include all able-bodied men of suitable age who have shown themselves prepared to take part in the land defence of their country ; the Reserve to consist of three classes, styled respectively "The Territorial Force Reserve," "The Technical Reserve," and the "Veteran Reserve." The idea is a good one, but will entail an immense amount of labour on County associations and Commanding Officers, for which no monetary provision has been made. It seems a little premature to propose such an organisation while the Territorial Force is still in its infancy, and passing through all the ailments of childhood. We should like to see it in vigorous health and able to stand firm on its feet, before any inducements are held out to its members to retire after only four years' service. The average Volunteer is only then at his best in point of age and efficiency, and every effort ought to be made to retain his services for at least eight years, before he is allowed to pass into the Reserve. The Volunteers made haste slowly, too slowly some of us think, and the question of the Territorial Reserve might be allowed to simmer in the public mind before any hasty steps are taken towards its formation.

The Veteran Reserve we would have none of. It partakes too much of the character of Falstaff's regiment, and the mere enumeration of its possible constituents would make any one slow to join it. Is it in sarcasm that the Army Council rule that no public funds, other than charges for registration, shall be expended in connection with this Reserve? Only the following will be eligible to serve in the Veteran Reserve: Ex officers of the Regular Army and Territorial Forces, soldiers of the Regular Forces, or of the Special Reserve, ex Militiamen, ex Imperial Yeomen, ex Volunteers, and ex members of analogous

Colonial Forces, who have completed four years' efficient service; Territorial soldiers qualified to join the Territorial Reserve, and individuals in possession of a war medal. They may be allowed the use of military rifle ranges, but not to drill or exercise as armed forces or to wear uniform. To quote an old Latin proverb, "Out of nothing, nothing is made."

CHAPTER XXXI.

THE liberality of the Greenock public, and the touching kindness of the children of the Board Schools in making garments for the soldiers at the front, deserve to be recorded. And it may interest some of the old scholars to remember how that work was appreciated. The officer commanding the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders wrote us the following letter in acknowledgment :—

“ Sir,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated 8th March, 1900, advising me of the despatch from Southampton of a box containing comforts contributed by the teachers and girls of the public schools of your town for the men of this Battalion. I beg that, on behalf of the soldiers who will receive these comforts, you will please convey my warmest thanks to the contributors, assuring them at the same time that their presents will be most acceptable. The magnificent contribution of £105 you have sent to Colonel Trotter I also thank the contributors for. It will be invaluable at the end of the campaign. The Volunteer Company joined us here (Bloemfontein) three days ago. You have sent us a fine contingent. We were very glad to see them. I feel confident they will do well, and I trust they may all return home safely with the Battalion.”

At this time the War Office awoke from its slumbers to see the value of the Volunteers; but, of course, when the scare was over, it resumed its sleeping attitude. Camps of exercise for Volunteers, or what were called “emergency camps,” were sanctioned by the Secretary of State, for a period not exceeding twenty-eight days, with Army pay and allowances for officers and men, and a special capitulation allowance for the corps attending. Separation allowances were also given to all married Volunteers, which is in striking contrast to the present economical arrangement of limiting the allowance to married sergeants only. To assist the Battalion to produce 50 per cent. of its strength at the proposed training

camps at Irvine, Provost Black very considerably convened a meeting of employers of labour in town, who agreed that, recognising the special circumstances of the present crisis and the necessity of promoting the efficiency of the Volunteer force, they afford facilities to their employees to attend camp. This was a great help to the Battalion.

On Wednesday, the 6th June, 1900, the Battalion took part in the celebration of Pretoria Day. On this occasion, under the generalship of Provost Black, the Corporation was not behindhand. The previous evening a bonfire was erected at the top of the Lyle Road, and illuminated the countryside ; but the more formal proceedings took place on the Wednesday, which was declared a public holiday. The Battalion mustered 600 strong, and marched to St. Andrew Square, where they were joined by the Greenock Battery of Position, and, followed by the Provost and Magistrates in carriages, "processed" to the Battery Park under a South African sun. There a *feu de joie* and Royal salute were fired, a march past took place, and the "triumphal procession" was resumed back to town again. The Battalion was refreshed in the Town Hall. An extraordinary thirst had been developed under the brilliant sunshine and amid the excitement of the crowded streets, where every breath of fresh air was excluded. The area of the Town Hall was like a battlefield (sham) after the fight is over, as the whole floor space was covered by wearied and hungry, not to speak of thirsty, Kilties, enjoying their modest refreshment, while the city fathers were banqueting upstairs.

It was a notable day in the history of the Empire, and also of Greenock. Certain it is, there had never before been such a sight at the Battery Park and all along the route of march. For the first time in its existence the entire Battalion was arrayed in the garb

of Old Gaul, and as they swung along, to the time-honoured tunes of "Hielan' Laddie" and "Lochnagar," the lads of the elastic heather-step made a brave and imposing show. Friday evening of the same week was memorable as witnessing the record turnout at a Battalion inspection. The number of all ranks present on parade was 1,012, The number absent with leave was 49, without leave 4, and sick 6, making a total strength of 1,057. The Rothesay Company was inspected the previous evening, and mustered 99. The establishment of the Battalion was 1,196 of all ranks, made up of

8 Field and Staff Officers.
 28 Company Officers.
 54 Sergeants.
 20 Buglers.
 1,079 Rank and File.
 1 Adjutant.
 6 Sergeant-Instructors.

With the exception of the Cyclists, the whole Battalion was clothed in the garb of the gallant Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Never was there such a muster of kilted Volunteers in Greenock, and a perfervid Gael assures us that so enamoured was Nature of the scene that the setting sun flung his benediction from beyond the Argyllshire Hills. It looked, of a truth, as if the whirligig of time had brought to Greenock a genuine Celtic Renaissance. "*Fasaidh an aon bheag na mile*," which, being interpreted, means, "A little one shall become a thousand."

The inspection was shortly followed by the Brigade camp at Irvine Moor, which was the largest the Battalion ever took part in. We paraded 850 men, which was fully two-thirds of our strength, and far beyond the regulation minimum of 50 per cent. With such an active Brigadier as Colonel Trotter we had a very good time, but the weather was variable. In addition to the ordinary routine of drill, musketry, and route marches, the Battalion took part very

creditably in several important movements. One was a sham fight on the Ardeer Moor, when about 3,500 men were engaged. Colonel Sir T. G. Coats commanded the 1st Renfrew and 1st and 2nd Ayr, the attacking forces. Colonel Lamont was in command of the 2nd Renfrew (Colonel Millar) and the 1st Dumbarton (Colonel Denny), which constituted the defending forces. We had rather heavy going over the sand hills of Ardeer, and the whole Brigade when in action covered an immense tract of country, forming a circle from the sea at Irvine round through Dreg-horn, Doura, Kilwinning, and back to the sea near Saltcoats. The fight was a very keen one, and was carried on in the presence of the G.O.C. and the umpires. A pow-wow was held at the close, and the Brigadiers had the very trying task of telling the reason why they had done this, that, and the other thing.

A great route march was another feature of the camp, and the country for fifteen miles round was more or less covered with the men in scarlet, busy at outpost duty and other work. Kilmarnock, Beith, Kilwinning, Saltcoats, Drybridge, Symington, Middleton, Dreghorn, Dunlop, and other villages, had an opportunity of viewing the show, and one enthusiastic captain of a company marched his men so far that they were hours behind time, and came into camp footsore and hungry.

A cyclist outpost scheme was another extensive but not particularly interesting bit of work. The force was divided into a Northern and Southern Brigade, commanded respectively by Colonel Lamont and Colonel Sir T. G. Coats. The invaders were under the latter, and the home force commanded by the former, each with about 1,500 men under him, but neither made history in the Volunteer sense of the term.

The camp was full of hard work, and the War Office got good value for their money, while the men were as fit as fiddles, notwithstanding the bad weather. The return journey may be described as a stormy leave-taking, thunder and lightning and torrents of rain being the order of the day and night. It is a striking testimony to the physique and fitness of the men that not a sound was heard, nor a grumbling note, as to discomfort or sickness. This might not have been expected from men whose mode of life was so suddenly changed ; but tent life, with fresh air night and day, works wonders, and it was a disappointment to many of the men when the time came that they must return to their civil employment.

The question of rifle clubs, which had forced itself on us before, again came prominently forward during the South African war, and was encouraged somewhat by the War Office and the English Commanding Officers. When on deputation at the War Office, we took the opportunity of saying to Lord Roberts and Mr. Brodrick, the Secretary of State for War, that we hoped they would not maintain the rifle clubs at the expense of the Volunteers, as we were afraid would be the case. If a man has time to perfect himself as a rifle shot, he has time to perform the ordinary duties of a Volunteer, unless precluded by age. The true rifle club is the Volunteer Regiment, and, under the political and military constitution of this country, the only rifle club. Without drill and discipline a rifle shot is of little use, and such a movement can have no permanence about it. A little experience soon showed that these statements were well warranted, and we believe that at the present moment there are very few successful rifle clubs in the best shooting country of the world—Scotland. It seems fashionable for the *haut ton* to patronise them ; but we trust they will transfer their patronage and practical sympathy to the natural

successors of the Volunteers, the Territorials, who receive less encouragement than their predecessors from the hands of a parsimonious Army Council, who expect them to give their valuable time and services, and also to qualify in shooting, at their own expense, like "the best dressed Highlander" at the Highland gatherings.

CHAPTER XXXII.

THE year 1900 saw the centenary of the 2nd Battalion A. and S. Highlanders—the old 93rd, raised in Sutherlandshire by General Wemyss. South Africa, America, the Crimea, and India, were the countries where they covered themselves with glory. In the year 1881 the 93rd and 91st became linked Battalions, and took the designation of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, with which the Greenock Battalion is affiliated. Like all the Highland regiments, they have been kept their full share on foreign service. Out of one hundred years, less than twenty have been spent in Scotland.

One of the earliest recollections of my boyhood was seeing the stalwart Highlander of the 93rd, with his feather bonnet, doing sentry go in front of the new poorhouse in Captain Street, now razed to the ground and occupied by dwelling-houses. This was in August, 1851, when a company of the 93rd was stationed in Greenock for eight weeks, to assist the civil authorities in quelling the riots which took place at that time. The leader of the agitation was John Orr, or the “Angel Gabriel,” whom we remember sounding his trumpet in the streets before he commenced his harangue. Although a “good bit off,” he succeeded in inflaming the minds of the carpenters, who were a force to be reckoned with in those days, against the Roman Catholics. The consequence was bitter hatred, riots, and bloodshed, to the great danger and alarm of the lieges. St. Mary’s Chapel, in Shaw Street, being close by Mr. Murray’s School, will always be remembered by the “old boys” as a scene of “assault and battery.” The whole town was in a state of siege, and it was only after the timely arrival of the 93rd that hostilities ceased ; but it took two

months' time before the town resumed its normal state.

It was in this way, and at this time, that Greenock first became associated with the gallant 93rd.

Three years after this, the famous regiment formed part of Sir Colin Campbell's Highland Brigade in the Crimea, and immortalised itself as "The Thin Red Line." The 93rd, 500 strong, and several battalions of Turks, had charge of the gorge that led down to the harbour of Balacava. On the 25th October, 1854, a great body of Russian cavalry suddenly advanced against their position. It was the only position covering the base. The host of horsemen swept down upon them in magnificent charge, and the Turks turned and ran, crying "Ship! ship!" But the 93rd remained steady as the rocks around them. In ordinary circumstances the Highlanders would have been formed in a hollow square; but on this occasion Sir Colin Campbell simply formed them into a line two deep. It was a solemn moment. So much depended on the steadiness of that one regiment. "Remember," said Sir Colin, as he rode down the line, "remember, there is no retreat from here, men! You must die where you stand!"

They opened independent fire from the right of sections, and when the Russians came within two hundred yards of that "thin red line tipped with steel," they broke and fled. Then followed those unparalleled cavalry charges of the British Heavy and Light Brigades which are among the proudest and saddest memories of the British Army. The 93rd is the only infantry regiment which enjoys the distinction of bearing the word "Balacava" on its colours.

The Regimental Returns of the 1st Renfrew for the year ended 31st October, 1900, showed that the regiment was in the highest state of efficiency, and

that its numerical strength was the largest in the history of the corps. It is hardly necessary to say that this satisfactory state of things was in a great measure due to the increased interest that was evinced in the Volunteer movement in the early part of the year, when the Active Service men went off to the seat of war ; and to the fact that, shortly afterwards, the Secretary of State for War gave authority to recruit the Battalion to a war establishment. Piping times of peace are not favourable to recruiting, either in the Regulars or the Volunteers. The total strength of the regiment was 1,171, of whom only 30 were non-efficient, and no fewer than 56 men were on active service. The Musketry Returns of the Battalion contained the following remarks by General E. F. Chapman : " The best in the district ; does very great credit to all concerned." The year 1900 was the record one of the Battalion for numbers, efficiency, musketry, and camp attendance.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

WITH the new century came the passing of Queen Victoria, who was specially dear to the soldier's heart because of her great pride in, and love for, her Army. The Greenock Volunteers, figuratively, laid an immortelle upon her tomb by holding a memorial service in the West Parish Church. As the Rev. Dr. Macmillan aptly put it, the Greenock Volunteers would wish to place upon their beloved Queen's tomb that day the wreath of everlasting gratitude and remembrance, and to carry with them, each one, into their daily sphere the inspiration of her noble example, that they, too, might be faithful unto death, and so obtain the crown of life.

The Battalion was honoured by being asked to furnish a company, as representing the Clyde Brigade, to take part at the solemn obsequies in London. An Ayr Battalion made a claim to seniority; but eventually it was ruled out of court, very properly, on the ground that it was Volunteer seniority which reckoned. The Battalion was quite safe on that ground, and a wire from the War Office speedily put an end to all dubiety in the matter. The company was specially selected and drawn from the various companies of the Battalion. The average height of the 100 men was 5 feet 10 inches, so they could afford to look down upon some of the other contingents. It was generally conceded that it would have been hard to find a better looking company in any Volunteer Battalion in the United Kingdom. The officers in charge were Major Park, with Lieuts. Prentice and Gatherer. One of them has given the following details of their experiences in London :—

Despite the long night journey, through the cold and snow, our men stepped out, on the arrival

platform, as smart and as fit as ever, and speedily set out on their march through London. Here we may remark, in parenthesis, that the route was somewhat devious, and occasionally ended in a *cul de sac*, out of which we were extricated by an appeal to the map at a friendly lamppost. As we were in an enemy's country, any offers of assistance from the natives were very promptly and properly declined. However, it is a long lane which has no turning, and by-and-by the company found itself at the cosy headquarters of the London Scottish, where a warm meal awaited the men, while the officers breakfasted with Colonel Eustace Balfour, brother of the Premier, Mr A. J. Balfour.

In the absence of all orders, till after the function was over, Colonel Lamont finally decided to send out the company on the chance of finding out from the first staff officer met all the desired information. After waiting about an hour, near St. George's Hospital, with other companies similarly circumstanced, we received staff orders to follow the company immediately in front and take post in Hyde Park, finally finding ourselves stationed on the east side of the east avenue, at the west end of Mount Street. The troops here were at first formed two deep, but owing, doubtless, to the dense mass of spectators, this formation was soon changed to four deep. A brawny sergeant of the Battalion rather alarmed the Cockney crowd by threatening to lie back on them and pulverise them. The company of Borderers on our right had great difficulty in resisting the pressure of the people behind, and had finally to get the aid of some Lancers. During the long three hours' wait the cold was somewhat trying, but our English friends had to be shown that we held the kilt to be as comfortable in the circumstances as the more modern garments of the other troops. Some of the remarks made by the crowd were very laughable. One little girl was heard

to say to her father : " Are they real, or are they Englishmen dressed up ? "

About eleven o'clock we heard the first minute gun, and about mid-day the head of the procession was seen in the distance. The company commanders in turn called their men to attention, and a long column of horse and foot passed.

Most of us have noticed, on sailing down the Clyde, how continual looking at the moving water and shore produces such an effect on the brain that, when one's eyes are diverted for a moment to the deck of our steamer, the planking seems to move. A similar effect was produced by the continual passing of horses and men from our left to our right. When an interval occurred the men drawn up on the opposite side of the avenue seemed to be floating away to the left, making a somewhat uncanny impression on those who noticed the phenomenon.

When the procession had been passing for about forty minutes, the principal portion approached. Company by company the troops lining the route presented arms, and leaned on their arms reversed, the officers saluting, and then resting with crossed hands on their swords. By-and-by came the team of cream-coloured horses and khaki gun carriage conveying the mortal remains of our beloved Sovereign. The coffin seemed to be covered with a cream silk pall, embroidered in each corner with the Royal Arms, and the crown which she had so worthily worn in life lay at her head, fit emblem of the crown of life which fadeth not away. The carriage only appeared for a few seconds, being speedily eclipsed by the attendant mourners. All eyes then caught sight of the King, seated on a beautiful and powerful horse, and apparently absorbed in his sad thoughts. On the King's right hand, and so next us, rode the Kaiser, pale and haggard-looking, sitting like a statue, holding

his Field-Marshal's baton. Then followed a long and imposing cavalcade of notabilities, among whom we recognised the Duke of Connaught, the Prince of Wales, the King of the Belgians, and the Crown Prince of Germany. Our new Queen took a marked interest in the Volunteers, and was noticed to bend forward as if to get a better view of her kilted soldiers.

The rest of the procession was of little interest to us, and in a few minutes we were confronted by an immense crowd following closely in the wake of the funeral. The impression left by the whole pageant is one not likely to be forgotten, and the feelings excited are scarcely such as to be adequately described. The incessant booming of the minute guns, the hundreds of thousands of faces gazing intently out of that unending sea of black, made one have a strange consciousness of being present at one of the most solemn occasions in the whole world's history.

Five faces, however, seem even now to be photographed indelibly on our minds. First, that of Lord Roberts, a little man on a big horse, sharp, fresh, energetic, with very piercing eyes, ready to make more history. Next, that of the King, who always carries himself with a kingly air, dignified and sad, with the snow of years already showing. Then the pale, frightened-looking, rigid face of the Kaiser, mounted on a white horse, suggestive of a character in the book of the Revelation, with eyes looking far ahead, as it were, into the anxious future of armies and Dreadnoughts. And two faces more—that of the new Queen showing through her heavy veil; and beyond all most consciously present, despite all its coverings, that one face which was passing us in its last long sleep. Fifty years hence some old men will be telling their grandchildren how long, long ago they saw all these faces, and more, at the funeral of the Great and Good Queen.

The officers were handsomely entertained by Colonel Balfour, of the London Scottish, and a strange feeling passed over us all when the kindly Colonel gave the toast of "The King." Colonel Lamont, on behalf of the northern officers, thanked Colonel Balfour for the generous hospitality he and his Battalion had extended to their brothers in arms; and in the evening, before leaving the hospitable roof of the London Scottish, on behalf of the Scottish contingents, he again thanked Colonel Balfour and his indefatigable staff for the exceedingly generous hospitality they had extended to their "brither Scots." So ended the first visit to London of a contingent of the 1st V.B. A. and S.H.

Provost Black, who did honour to the Volunteers on every possible occasion, had, on 25th January, 1901, the distinction of officially proclaiming the accession of the King, in front of the Mid Parish Church. In the old days this was familiar ground for electioneering speeches on the occasion of a Parliamentary election; but never before, in our experience, was it the scene of a Royal Proclamation. The Volunteers turned out to "assist" in the interesting ceremony, and their services were recognised by the Provost in a cordial letter of thanks.

It may be added that Provost Black witnessed three accessions to the Throne of these realms. In the course of his remarks at a luncheon in the Provost's Rooms, held after the Proclamation of King Edward, he said that "he remembered very well the ringing of the bells for the accession of William the Fourth, and was present when Provost Macfie, along with Sheriff Marshall, proclaimed the Sovereign then. He could not remember distinctly what was done at the accession of Queen Victoria, but certainly he little thought at the time he witnessed the Proclamation of William the Fourth, that he would be asked to take such a part in the proceedings of to-day."

CHAPTER XXXIV.

MEANWHILE, a second Active Service Company had been called up for South Africa, and was undergoing training at Stirling. The company consisted of 3 officers and 113 rank and file. Captain Paton, of the 3rd, was in command, and the other officers were Lieutenant Jack, 2nd Battalion (now of the Cameronians), and Lieutenant Ross, 7th Battalion. We were present at the marching out inspection by Colonel Trotter, who expressed himself as much pleased, not only with their performance on parade, but also with the great and marked improvement which had taken place in the company during the two weeks they had been at the Castle. Much kindness was shown them by the municipal and military authorities and the Y.M.C.A. A function, in the shape of a dinner by the Commanding Officers of the seven Volunteer Battalions, was given them in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling, on Thursday evening of the same week. As senior officer present, it fell to my happy lot to preside over a company of 170, when excellent farewell speeches were made by Colonel Trotter and others.

The company left Stirling on the 13th March, 1901, for embarkation at Liverpool in the Wilson liner Ebro, and the same scenes of enthusiasm were witnessed in the streets as before, both at Greenock and Stirling. The names of the 1st Renfrew men were :—

L.-Sergeant Walter Miller, G. Coy.
 Corpl. David Aitken, Cyclists.
 Pte. H. A. Allan, A Coy.
 Pte. F. Bowman, E Coy.
 Pte. C. Currie, I Coy.
 Pte. D. Chittick, E Coy.
 Pte. A. Davidson, D Coy.
 Pte. Dan. Munn, F Coy.
 Pte. Sam. Paterson, G Coy.
 Pte. J. H. Roberts, G Coy.

Pte. H. Richardson, A Coy.
 Pte. D. Gillies, I Coy.
 Pte. Thomas Shaw, C Coy.
 Pte. J. Crewe, B Coy.
 Pte. W. Tulloch, F Coy.
 Pte. A. Campbell, C Coy.

The Colour-Sergeant of the company was the most popular man in it—viz., Colour-Sergeant-Instructor James Wight, of the 1st Battalion. He was regarded as the Father of the company, and won the affection of every man in it. His military career ended with his service as Sergeant-Major of the Battalion, a position he filled with credit to himself and satisfaction to the officer commanding.

The Second Active Service Company had no sooner left our shores than we were plunged into the new excitement of a "Welcome Home to the Lads in Tartan and Khaki" who had served their country for the period of fifteen months in South Africa. They arrived by the Kildonan Castle at Southampton on the 18th May, 1901, all well. The names of the local men were :—

Lieut. A. E. Stewart.
 Sergt. John A. Brand.
 Corpl. Arthur Holmes.
 L.-Corpl. J. C. Purdon.
 L.-Corpl. T. M'Farlane.
 Pte. F. M'Kenzie.
 Pte. D. M'Intosh.
 Pte. J. M'Gill.
 Pte. W. Clark.
 Pte. D. Craig.
 Pte. N. Macphail.
 Pte. J. Murray.
 Pte. J. M'Intyre.

Of the other seven who went to South Africa with the First Volunteer Active Service Company, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, Privates Dallas, Fulton, and Ormsby joined the Scottish Horse; Privates Harris, George M'Arthur, and M'Grath entered the service of the Imperial Railway; and Private Smith returned home invalided.

The company went out 118 strong in February,

and was reinforced a few months later by a draft of 20 men. Of these, there returned 3 officers and 72 men; 2 were killed, 3 died of disease, 15 were invalided home, 6 were left in hospital, 3 were discharged in South Africa, 1 on leave in South Africa, 14 engaged on the Transvaal Military Railways, 15 joined the Scottish Horse, and 2 joined the Railway Sharpshooters. Captain Cook, the first Commander of the company, was invalided home, and another of the original officers, Lieutenant Hunter, died from enteric fever. The officers who returned were Captain A. J. M'Arthur, Lieutenant A. E. Stewart, and Lieutenant R. L. Stevenson. These figures account for every man who has served in the company.

Their first welcome was at Stirling, where they arrived on Sabbath morning. "The better day the better deed;" so all Stirling turned out, headed by the Provost and Magistrates, and gave them a right royal welcome.

The home-coming at Greenock was looked forward to by all classes in the community, and the great outburst of enthusiasm which was manifested was unmistakable evidence of the town's appreciation of the patriotic action of the men in volunteering to serve under the flag in far-away South Africa. In Greenock there had been many celebrations of a popular character during the war, notably on the relief of Ladysmith and the raising of the memorable siege of Mafeking; but the scenes in the streets on the arrival of the Highlanders surpassed any previous demonstration. All day the town was in an excited state, and every house which could display bunting, or colour of any description, was decorated for the occasion. Towards evening the streets were filled with an enthusiastic multitude. It was calculated that no fewer than 40,000 people witnessed the procession along the route.

The Battalion paraded about 900 strong, and marched, preceded by the Magistrates, Town Council, and other gentlemen in carriages, to Carlsdyke Station, where it was arranged the lads in khaki were to detrain. They got a reception worthy of a king, alighting amid the boom of fog signals and the ringing cheers of the vast crowd. The demonstrations continued the whole way to the Town Hall, which was ablaze with bunting, national flags, and mottoes. The hall never presented a more brilliant appearance, and long before the arrival of the Volunteers the whole of the space on the platform, as well as in the boxes and galleries, was crowded by their friends and the general public. As eight o'clock struck, the head of the column reached the carriage-way of the Town Hall, and their advent was signalled by rounds of cheering, which brought the entire audience to their feet. A perfect ovation greeted the appearance of the South African detachment.

The proceedings on the platform it is almost impossible to describe. After a prayer of thanksgiving by the chaplain, Rev. W. W. Beveridge, the Senior Magistrate, Bailie W. B. M'Millan, who presided in the absence of Provost Black through illness, gave the detachment an official but very hearty welcome, in name of the Corporation and the community. Colonel Lamont, in presenting the men to the audience, said, *inter alia*, that some of those present no doubt remembered a very touching sermon that was preached by their respected chaplain before the Volunteers left, and how in his peroration the preacher said they would give the little contingent that was about to leave their native shores the promise that God gave to Abraham after the first recorded war when He said, "Fear not, I am thy shield, I will be thine exceeding great reward." These words had proved true to the very letter; and it was the joyful experience of all who left, with the exception of one

who was much beloved, and who served in another branch of the service—he referred to Trooper Benson of B Company. Of their little band, so far as they knew, there were about 90 either on this side or on the veldt in South Africa in perfect health.

The whole function was brimful of patriotic enthusiasm, with a judicious blend of genuine affection on the part of the relatives and friends of the “strong, buirdly, tawny” lads in tartan. Everything went off successfully, a result with which the weather had something to do. What moved the many thousands of people in the town and neighbourhood was the spirit of patriotism, self-sacrifice, and pluck that led the Service Company to leave their homes to cross the ocean and to face the foe. A dinner in Stirling and a dance in Greenock concluded the welcome home of the First Active Service Company.

The men brought home a good many relics of the war. Chief of these was an Orange Free State flag captured at Dewetsdorp. Captain M'Arthur had it on the authority of a true Scotsman who was Acting Town Clerk in Bloemfontein that the first time the flag was unfurled was at the swearing-in of Mr. Steyn as President of the Orange Free State at Magersfontein. The flag was taken by the Seaforths, but recaptured by De Wet, and ultimately fell into the hands of the Service Section of the Argyll and Sutherlands at Dewetsdorp. The flag is riddled with bullets. The mascot of the company was a young goat which rejoiced in the name of “Hector,” and came into their possession at Edenburg, in the Orange River Colony, where it was found lying on the veldt almost dead from exposure. It not only shared in the rigours of the campaign, but on arrival in this country was present at the thanksgiving service on the Esplanade of Stirling Castle, and likewise “assisted” at the banquet in the Golden Lion Hotel.

The following interesting account of the doings of the company in South Africa has been kindly supplied by Captain A. E. Stewart, then of the Battalion, but now of the Indian Army :—

After their arrival in Cape Town, the company proceeded to Greenpoint Camp, where everything was put in order for the front, and from here the men had only field service kit. After a day or two in Cape Town the company was railed to Norvals Point, on the Orange River. So far the railway was intact, but beyond this it had been destroyed by the Boers, including the bridge over the Orange River. By this time Lord Roberts had arrived in Bloemfontein, from Paardeberg, and was preparing for his advance on Pretoria, and all available troops were being hurried up to Bloemfontein. All the Volunteer companies were brigaded and marched from Norvals Point to Bloemfontein. The Highland Brigade was in Bloemfontein, so on arrival the company was at once attached to the 91st A. and S.H., and became I Company of that regiment. Shortly after arrival in Bloemfontein Captain Cook, commanding the company, unfortunately took enteric fever, was invalided home, and did not return.

From Bloemfontein the Highland Brigade moved east, under General Colville, in the direction of the waterworks, and from there took part in the general advance north, as far as Heilbron. At Heilbron further misfortunes befell the company. Lieutenant Hunter, commanding the company, died of enteric, and as Lieutenant M'Arthur was away with a portion of the company, Lieutenant W. G. Neilson (now Captain W. G. Neilson, D.S.O.) of the 91st took command. Shortly after leaving the waterworks, a company, under command of Captain Richardson, 91st A. and S. H., was despatched to the main line for rations, etc. This company included Lieutenant M'Arthur and about twenty men of the Volunteer

Company. But being unable to return to the Highland Brigade, they were attached, as escort, to the naval guns with Lord Roberts, in the central advance. The Highland Brigade was at Heilbron until about the middle of July. The portion of the Volunteer Company, with Captain Richardson, escorted the naval guns all through the general advance, and were present at the actions of Vet River, Johannesburg, Pretoria, and Diamond Hill.

About the 18th July, the Highland Brigade was broken up, and the 91st, having arrived in Pretoria from Heilbron, was put into General Ian Hamilton's Division, and took part in the eastern advance with Lord Roberts. Owing to railway and transport difficulties the advance was cut short at Balmoral on 27th July. The night of the 26th July will long be remembered by those who took part in that advance as one of the worst experiences of the war. About two p.m. a violent thunderstorm came on, with tropical rain, which lasted till about ten p.m., when everything was soaked through and through. It then started to freeze, and by one a.m. kilts, coats, and all that had got soaked, were stiff with ice, the ground had become mire, waggons sunk up to the axles, and oxen and mules up to the girths. During these twelve hours 500 oxen and mules perished, and Lieutenant Maclaren of the 91st succumbed to the cold.

From Balmoral General Ian Hamilton's Division was sent back to Pretoria with orders to go and relieve General Baden-Powell, who was then held up at Rustenburg. They marched out of Pretoria on 1st August, and on 2nd August fought the Battle of Zilukato Nek. The 91st A. and S.H. on the left, and the Berkshire Regiment on the right, formed the firing line, the Volunteer Company being on the left of the firing line. The fight lasted from six a.m. until about twelve noon, when the Nek was carried, the Boers retreating before we got up to the Nek. The total

casualties on our side were 42. The division reached Rustenburg without further opposition, and relieved the garrison there, returning at once to Commando Nek.

At this time De Wet had crossed the Orange River, and was bringing north President Steyn, to meet President Kruger ; so Ian Hamilton's Division joined in the pursuit and marched south towards Krugersdorp to attempt to head off De Wet.

After two days' marching, information came in that De Wet, with Steyn, had slipped past on to the west, and was heading for Oliphant's Nek ; so the whole Division turned about and marched straight for Oliphant's Nek. It was a weary march, and at twelve midnight we got into camp three miles south of the Nek. The enemy were holding the Nek, so General Hamilton issued orders for the Nek to be attacked at dawn. At five a.m. all was astir. The K.O.S.B.'s and the Loyal North Lancs., the Kimberley Regiment under Colonel Kekewich, formed the firing line, and the A. and S. Highlanders the reserve. The Boers allowed the attack to get to within about 800 yards before a shot was fired. But their resistance was feeble, and by mid-day the Nek was carried, the enemy getting away. That evening news came in that De Wet was stuck in Oliphant's Drift ; so at five p.m. we were off again, and had two days' and two nights' hard marching towards Commando Nek, and then to Hebron, and towards Warm Baths. But De Wet, handing over Steyn, doubled back in small bodies and evaded our troops.

From here we proceeded to Pretoria, as the eastern advance had commenced again, and marching each day we reached Belfast about 2nd September, just too late for the big fight at Dalmanutha. From here we proceeded with Lord Roberts and headquarters staff, to Machadorp, and then down the

Crocodile Valley to Nelspruit. Here we got news that Kruger had gone into Portuguese territory *en route* to Europe. After a few days at Nelspruit the 91st were trained to Pretoria, and from there marched to Rustenburg.

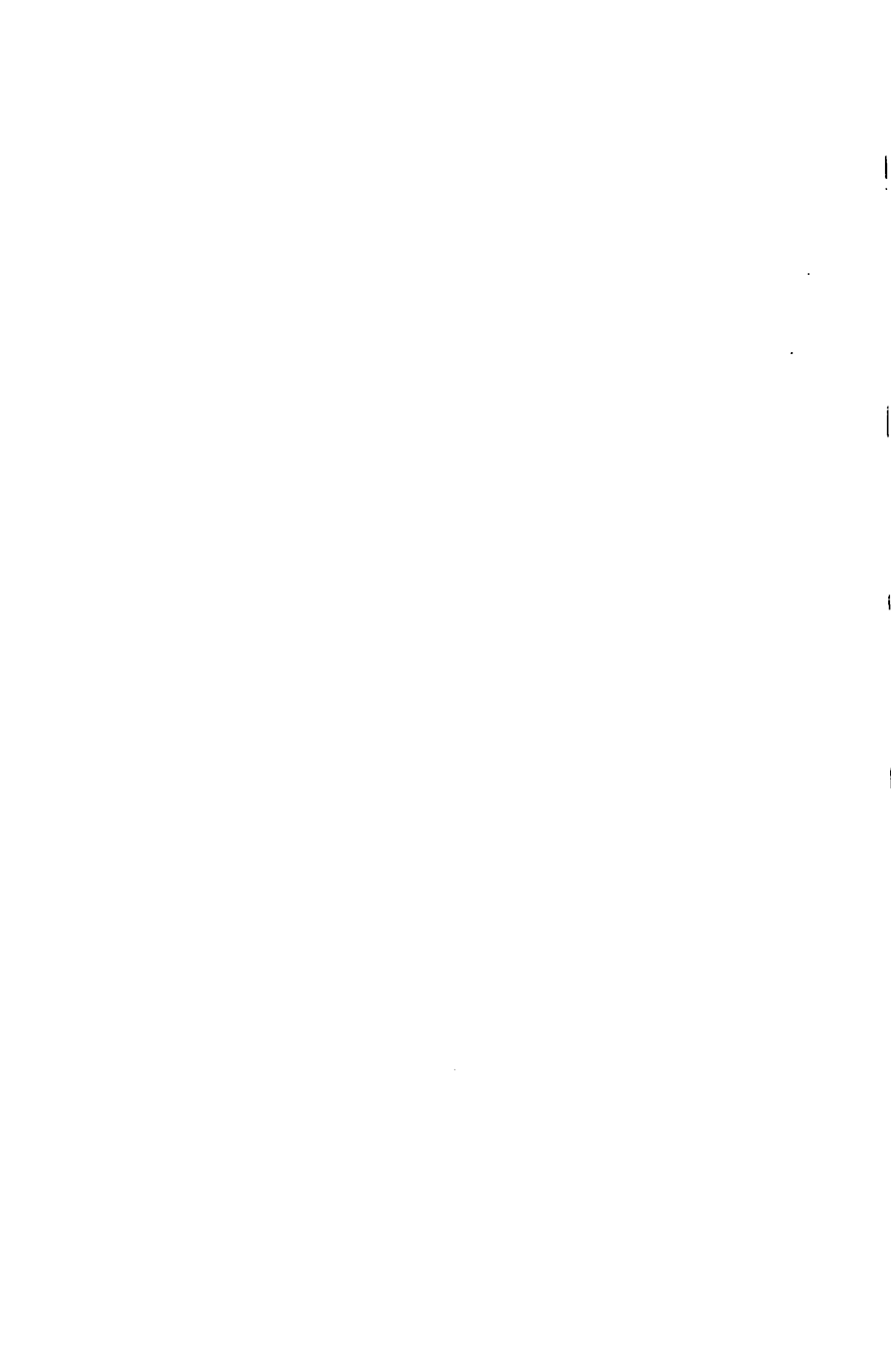
The day before reaching Rustenburg, Campbell and Gillespie, of the Volunteer Company, were shot dead by snipers, within 600 yards of our camp—two splendid specimens of Highlanders, and a great loss to the company. On arrival at Rustenburg, the 91st had just completed about 1,000 miles marching since arriving in the Transvaal in July; and mention is made of this notable fact in Conan Doyle's book on the war.

After a week's stay at Rustenburg, orders came for all Volunteer Companies to come into Pretoria and collect for home; so the company, under Lieutenant Stewart, marched for Pretoria. With most of the company there was a deep feeling of regret at leaving the 91st, who one and all had not only shown their sympathies with the Volunteers, but had made us one of their happy family from the day the company joined them at Bloemfontein. Before marching off, Colonel Urmston, commanding the 91st, made a short speech to the company, and praised them for their work and the way in which all ranks had conducted themselves. The pipe band played us out of camp amid the cheering of the whole Battalion, and messages of good-bye and good luck were received by helio from the various pickets as we marched away. Major Wolridge Gordon and two companies of the 91st escorted us and a large convoy of empty waggons as far as Commando Nek (three days).

On arrival at Pretoria, Battalions were formed of all the Volunteer Companies, and camps were pitched to the north end of the town, in front of the Volksraad.



**MARCH PAST OF THE 1ST ACTIVE SERVICE COY.
BEFORE LORD ROBERTS, AT PRETORIA.**



All bands were massed in the square, and Lord Roberts, standing with the headquarters staff, received the salute. At this parade the Volunteer Company, under Lieutenant Stewart, paraded nearly 100 strong. The occasion was the formal annexation, by Lord Roberts, of the Transvaal to the British Empire. So the Union Jack was hoisted and a march-past took place of all the troops in Pretoria, numbering about 15,000 men. After about two weeks in Pretoria, we were railed to Bloemfontein; but now the war began to take a different course, as De Wet, and various other columns of the enemy, had broken back into the Free State, and were carrying on a vigorous guerilla warfare. So the home-going of all Volunteer Companies was cancelled.

The company only remained a few hours in Bloemfontein, when it was railed south to Edenburg, an important town half-way between Bloemfontein and the Orange River. Here the company was given about a mile of front, on the high ground east of the town, to entrench and defend. With the exception of odd skirmishes and the general defence of the town, visiting farms, etc., nothing exceptional occurred. During our stay there Edenburg was the headquarters of General Hector Macdonald and General Fitzroy Hart, who were commanding the hill from Bloemfontein to Orange River. About the end of April the Second Volunteer Company passed Edenburg in the train going north, and got a cheery welcome from the First Company. On 30th April the company was railed to Cape Town, and embarked on 2nd May on board the troopship Kildonan Castle for home.

CHAPTER XXXV.

THE South African campaign taught the British Army not a few valuable lessons in the art of warfare. Among the rest was that of the value of Mounted Infantry. The time of shock tactics with cavalry had long since gone, except in rare instances, or at the German Army manœuvres. The fate of the Yeomanry had been sealed, and they were gradually being improved out of existence, when the success of the Boers, who were nearly all Mounted Infantry, awoke the War Office to the fact that there were potentialities in the British Yeomanry hitherto undreamt of. The Regular Cavalry in South Africa, both in point of training and of numbers, were unfit for the task of rounding up the slim Boer, so a call was made on the old constitutional force of Yeomanry to supply Volunteers for a similar body, to be styled the Imperial Yeomanry, for service in South Africa. This they were only able to do to a limited extent, as nearly all the regiments were reduced in strength, owing to their exceptional treatment at this time. However, they responded nobly to the appeal; and, in addition, recruited large numbers of Volunteers and civilians, so that very soon entire companies of Yeomanry were formed all over the country to act as Mounted Infantry in South Africa.

Greenock, of course, contributed its quota to this patriotic contingent, and right gallantly did they conduct themselves. The two brothers Wilson, sons of the late Surgeon-Colonel W. A. Wilson, himself an old Volunteer of 1859, were specially mentioned in despatches by Lord Kitchener. One of them, Lieutenant R. E. Wilson, surrendered his rank in the Highlanders for the honour of active service, and was content with the rank of Corporal in the Yeomanry,

although he was afterwards restored to his rank in the old Battalion.

On the expiry of their time, the local men who had been on active service with the Imperial Yeomanry of the 17th, 18th, and 70th Companies, arrived at Southampton by the Tintagel Castle on 16th June. As the war fever had not yet abated, they got a reception from the municipality of Greenock and the townspeople hardly inferior to that of the First Active Service Company. For this occasion, the Artillery and Submarine Miners united with the Highlanders in escorting the returned Yeomen from the Greenock West Station, where they arrived, to the Town Hall by the way of the West-end streets. A body of about 200 horsemen, "all sorts and sizes," likewise took part in the procession, which extended over a mile in length. Dense crowds filled the streets, and when the Town Hall was reached it was speedily filled to overflowing. A great ovation was given the Yeomen, on their presentation to the audience by the writer of these notes. Their names were :—

Farrier-Sergeant Brown.
Trooper R. N. Campbell.
Trooper James Wilson.
Corporal Ralph E. Wilson.
Trooper Andrew Webster.
Trooper William Wilson.

They were still further honoured by a public banquet which was given them in the Town Hall Saloon at the conclusion of the official reception, and which was attended by many of Greenock's best citizens.

The year 1901 was a fatal one for not a few of Greenock's Volunteers on the veldt. Trooper George Rankin Benson, of B Company, who was serving in the Imperial Yeomanry, died of wounds at Aberdeen, Cape Colony, on the 7th March; Corporal David Richmond Aitken, of the Second Active Service Company, died of enteric fever at Pretoria, on 29th May; Trooper F. L. R. Laurent, Imperial Yeomanry

(A Company), died of enteric at Pretoria, 31st July ; and Trooper Robert Calderwood (F Company) was drowned near Wepener on the 18th October. Other victims to enteric were Trooper Alex. Scorgie, of E Company, Port-Glasgow, who died at Martin's Rust, 30th April, 1902 ; and Trooper Alex. Buchan, of the Imperial Yeomanry, formerly of the Greenock Police. Another member of the Greenock Police Force laid down his life for his country in the person of Trooper William Barron, of Lovat's Scouts, who was killed in action at Nauwport Nek, Orange River Colony, on the 26th July, 1900. The police constables who went "to the front" were splendid specimens of their class, and we desire gratefully to recognise their meritorious conduct.

On Saturday, the 21st September, 1901, an impressive and imposing spectacle took place at Stirling Castle, when war medals were presented to the Volunteers recently returned from South Africa, by the Duke of Montrose, the Lord-Lieutenant of Stirlingshire. On the esplanade in front of the ancient castle thousands of people gathered, while hundreds more witnessed the interesting proceedings from the ramparts of the castle. Six Battalions of the Regimental District were represented, and formed one side of the square ; the King's Guard of Honour and details from the Castle formed another ; while the local Artillery occupied the remaining side. The Service Company was drawn up inside the square at the lower extremity, and, after the ceremony, was very handsomely complimented by the Duke of Montrose.

Colonel Trotter was, as usual, in a very happy vein. In the course of his speech he said : " You have stood the grim test of war like men, and you are now fitted to rank yourselves as comrades in the truest sense of the word with the fellow-soldiers with whom you served. You will rank with them as having added to the prestige and the honour of the Regiment with

which you fought and served, and you have also reflected the greatest honour on your comrades in the various Battalions of Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, whom I command, and whom you represent. I had no lack of Volunteers from this district to go out to the Transvaal. There were, I should think, twenty times as many as you who were willing to go had circumstances permitted. I hope that all the Volunteers of my district will remember this brilliant and historic occasion, and that it will be the means of rekindling that martial ardour which used to animate the men and women of this country, which, I believe, is always latent, and will come to the front when it is required, as it was two years ago."

The recipients of the medals, from the 1st Battalion, were: Lieut. A. E. Stewart, who had just been appointed to a commission in the Royal Highlanders; Sergt. J. Brand, Corpl. J. C. Purdon, L.-Corpl. A. Holmes, L.-Corpl. T. M'Farlane, L.-Corpl. J. Murray, L.-Corpl. D. M'Intosh, Privates J. M'Gill, F. M'Kenzie, J. M'Intyre, J. C. Clark. D. Craig, N. M'Phail, and T. Smith. A large contingent of officers and men from the Battalion were present, and took part in the parade, besides many other friends of the returned Volunteers. The hospitality of Colonel Trotter and officers was unbounded, and the great pageant was appropriately brought to a close by a brilliant garden party in the Castle Gardens; while the Service Men, and the Volunteers from Greenock, were handsomely entertained in the Gymnasium.

CHAPTER XXXVI.

THE annual inspection of the Battalion by Colonel Trotter, in 1901, was his last one, and was very thorough and satisfactory. The total number of all ranks on parade was 1,010, so that with Rothesay (115), and the Service men, the total strength of the Corps was nearly 1,200 men—to be strictly accurate, 1,192. After the ceremonial the Battalion manœuvred among the kopjes at the top of the Lyle Road. The Battalion was four hours under arms. The line of operations extended from Drumshantie Farm, Gourrock, on the right to the Sailors' Home on the left. The Inspecting Officer said he had great pleasure in witnessing the manœuvres from beginning to end. They had been well executed, and the different positions taken up showed great care on the part of all the companies. He said that the Battalion was the best shooting one in the Scottish District, and, with one exception, in the United Kingdom. He must congratulate Colonel Lamont on the very large turnout and on the drill and discipline of the Battalion. He also congratulated them on getting back from South Africa the Active Service Company of the Regiment—a company which, under Lieut. Stewart, had reflected the greatest honour on the Battalion. In this connection he must add that whenever he wanted men for the Active Service Companies he had only to ask Colonel Lamont, and through him the 1st Renfrew, to get the want supplied.

The General Officer Commanding the Scottish District at that time was General Sir Archibald Hunter, K.C.B., D.S.O., and his report of the Battalion is worth quoting. It is as follows: "I regard Colonel Trotter's as a very complimentary report, and have made a mental note of this Battalion in case of need.

The G.O.C. desires to have his remarks published for information."

A very high honour was paid the Line Battalion, by the King, at Balmoral, on the occasion of his autumn visit to his Highland home, the first since his accession. The guard of honour, under Major Mackenzie, was largely composed of men returned from the South African War, and these had the high honour of receiving their war medals from His Majesty's hands. The King, addressing the guard, said: "I am very glad to have had this opportunity of presenting South African medals to those men of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders who have returned from the war. I have heard that amongst them are those who were wounded and those who were sick, and I am glad to see them looking so well. I know full well the history of your distinguished regiment, and I have little doubt that the good name you have borne, both at home and abroad, will be maintained by you as long as the regiment exists." By such gracious acts as these the King endeared himself to his subjects, and notably to his soldiers, whose comfort and well-being he studied, and with whose regimental records he was so familiar.

As a result of the criticisms which leading Volunteers had expressed on the new and more stringent regulations for Volunteers, embodied in an Army Order promulgated some time previously, Lord Roberts issued, with the approval of the Secretary of State for War, an important statement of the opinions of the Commander-in-Chief on the utility of the citizen army and the standard of efficiency, which, in view of recent war experience, he regarded as essential. This statement we do not intend to reproduce, as most of it was quite in order and correct, but one portion of it was keenly resented at the time by all good Volunteers, and was quite unpardonable. It reads as follows: "For many years past the Volunteer force

has constantly claimed to be seriously accepted as a reliable and organised section of the Army for home defence. It is now determined that the responsibility claimed shall be realised." Doubtless Lord Roberts is a great soldier, but his experience has all been in India, and he does not understand Volunteers. If he did he would never have penned such exasperating lines. For more than the period of his splendid service in India, which the country was not slow to acknowledge, the Volunteers had kept pegging at it, despite all the official obstacles thrown in the way, and now that the occasion had come and they had proved themselves, by their conduct in South Africa, to be "foemen worthy of their steel," it was rather unworthy of Lord Roberts to taunt them in the manner indicated. The Volunteers were always willing and waiting to be organised and drilled in such a way as to be a real source of strength to the country; but it took the War Office about fifty years to see that there were possibilities in them. The best answer that could be given to the famous circular of Lord Roberts was that the situation was accepted, an honest attempt made to comply with the regulations, and no depletion of the force took place, as was anticipated by the War Office. Camp training is undoubtedly a great boon to Battalions, but to say that it is indispensable is sheer nonsense. To the "slacker" it may be, but not to the *bona-fide* Volunteer. The very best Volunteers find it impossible, or undesirable, to attend an annual camp, and, if it is insisted on, the consequence will be that a lower type of men will be enlisted, or that the period of service will be much shorter in the future. Longer service with the colours, in the line, has of recent years been reverted to, and there is as much reason to encourage this in the Territorials, with their necessarily broken opportunities of drill.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

IN January, 1902, a special Army Order was issued notifying that it had been decided to raise fresh companies of Infantry Volunteers for service in South Africa, to relieve those at the front whose year of service was now about to expire. Seventeen men were asked from the Greenock Battalion. The response was so hearty that, within three days of the appeal made by the Commanding Officer, no less than thirty-eight men volunteered, twelve of these hailing from Port-Glasgow. In view of the recruiting for the better paid Imperial Yeomanry, it said a great deal for the 1st Renfrew that this, the third call made on it for volunteers, should have been responded to so heartily. No one could accuse them of mercenary motives. Some of them, as was the case with the first detachment, were treated in the most scurvy manner by their employers, even to the extent of withholding their hard-earned pay, because, forsooth, they had not given the statutory notice of their intention to leave. While we are not a nation of shopkeepers, the minds of some employers do not rise higher than their counters. Between the 1st and the 5th (Argyll) Battalions close on sixty men volunteered for the front, and it was a great satisfaction to us that a former officer of the 1st, Major G. H. Black, of the Ballachulish Company, was appointed to the command, while his subalterns were Lieuts. Harold Rae, of Gourrock, and James Morton Lamont, of Greenock.

The men of the Third Active Service Company left Greenock for Stirling on 5th February, 1902, and previous to their departure were entertained to breakfast in the Drill Hall, when, in addition to the officers, Provost Anderson and several of his colleagues were present to wish them God-speed. A similar

function took place in Port-Glasgow, at the same hour, to bid the Port Volunteers Good-bye.

Great kindness was shown the men by every one, and, as usual, the House of Ardgowan was kindness itself, and showed its sympathy in a very practical fashion, as will be seen by the undernoted communications :—

Ardgowan, 27th January, 1902.

Dear Colonel Lamont,—Sir Michael is unwell to-day with a cold, and asks me to send you the enclosed cheque for £20 towards insuring the lives of your forty men, and adding some comforts. How admirably they have come forward and given a noble example of true patriotism !—Believe me, yours very truly,

OCTAVIA SHAW STEWART.

House of Commons, 20th January, 1902.

Dear Colonel Lamont,—I venture to congratulate you on raising forty good men and sending them to the front, your son with them. It will be a fine experience for them all. I hope you are fully satisfied with the committee which Mr. Brodrick has appointed.—Yours truly,

M. HUGH SHAW STEWART.

After breakfast, the men paraded in the Drill Hall, under command of Major Black, and marched off to the railway station, the pipers playing "The 79th's Farewell to Gibraltar." With snow falling heavily, and the men wearing their greatcoats, the scene was indeed picturesque, and more suggestive of the Crimea than South Africa. Despite the weather, the streets were crowded with well-wishers, who cheered the men most heartily. The names of the Volunteers from the 1st Battalion are :—

Lieut. James M. Lamont.
Sergt.-Instructor R. Shearer.
Corpl. George Roberts, F Coy.
L.-Corpl. David Robertson, H Coy.
Pte. Duncan Crawford, B Coy.
Pte. Wm. M'Granachan, B Coy.
Pte. Donald M'Lachlan, B Coy.
Pte. Robert Mills, B Coy.



1ST BATTALION SECTION OF THE 3RD ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY AT STIRLING.

Pte. James E. Bell, C Coy.
 Pte. Robert Halliday, C Coy.
 Pte. Thomas Holmes, C Coy.
 Pte. George Stables, C Coy.
 Pte. James Craig, C Coy.
 Pte. R. Bain, C Coy.
 Pte. Patrick Lynch, D Coy.
 Pte. Dan. Anderson, E Coy.
 Pte. Louis Blair, E Coy.
 Pte. Durward Clark, E Coy.
 Pte. George Leslie, E Coy.
 Pte. Robert Lucas, E Coy.
 Pte. R. Martin, E Coy.
 Pte. Allan M'Lean, E Coy.
 Pte. Henry M'Nab, E Coy.
 Pte. Malcolm Miller, E Coy.
 Pte. Reid Sweeney, E Coy.
 Pte. Wilson Thomson, E Coy.
 Pte. James Wilson, E Coy.
 Pte. Robert Martin, E Coy.
 Pte. M. F. Jackson, F Coy.
 Pte. J. Boyd, G Coy.
 Pte. J. Gothard, G Coy.
 Pte. H. Morrison, G Coy.
 Pte. H. Buchanan, Cyclist Coy.
 Pte. Donald Orr, H Coy.
 Pte. John M'Leod, H Coy.
 Pte. H. M'Lachlan, H Coy.

Trooper William Lamont (F Coy.) at this time enlisted in the Scottish Horse, and did duty with that distinguished corps in South Africa under the Marquis of Tullibardine.

The Third Active Service Company were inspected at Stirling Castle by General Sir Archibald Hunter, the General Officer Commanding in Scotland, and after a careful inspection he expressed his great satisfaction with the smart and soldier-like manner of their turnout, and said he had no doubt they would uphold the reputation of their distinguished regiment in South Africa. After inspection, the remainder of the afternoon was spent preparing for the journey. In bright weather, not a particle of snow on the ground, the company fell in at four o'clock, and, with Colonel Trotter and Colonel Lamont at their head, marched to the railway station accompanied by large crowds of townspeople. *En route* the pipes struck up "Scotland the Brave" and "The Campbells are

Coming," while the town brass band also played selections. No fewer than 16 men had previously served at the front and wore the medals for South Africa. The company embarked with other details at Southampton on the 15th February in the Cawdor Castle for the seat of war.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

ON the 26th April the Second Active Service Company returned home, after thirteen months' service at the front. Stirling, as usual, gave the Volunteers a hearty welcome ; but at Greenock, where they arrived on Saturday afternoon, the interest was greater, and the welcome, like the country they had come from, warm. The large crowds which turned out to witness the return of the 1st Renfrew men showed unmistakably that the townspeople highly appreciated their patriotic action in volunteering for South Africa. Flags and bunting were displayed from many houses in town, and the gay appearance was added to by the rows of streamers stretched across the streets on the line of route.

The Battalion paraded 700 strong, and marched to meet them at the Carlsdyke Station, where they detrained. The crowds were so great that it was found necessary, to maintain order, to employ a detachment of mounted police, as well as about fifty on foot, under the supervision of Captain J. W. Angus, who has always been so helpful to the Volunteers. Marching out of the station, the lads in khaki and kilt were received with ringing cheers, and after passing down the open ranks of the Battalion to the strains of "Home, Sweet Home," the parade, with the khaki-clad men in front, marched back to the Drill Hall through thousands of townspeople, who lined the route and gave a hearty reception to the men.

On arrival at the Drill Hall, a thanksgiving prayer was offered by the Chaplain, the Rev. W. W. Beveridge, and the detachment was entertained to dinner after which fitting reference was made to the value of their services in South Africa by representatives of Greenock Town Council and Provost M·Master of Port-Glasgow, who, although he never

wore the uniform, has helped to foster the movement in Port-Glasgow, which town has always been strong in Volunteering as well as in recruiting for the Line and the Reserve.

The Second Active Service Company, on arrival in South Africa, had three months' garrison duty on the lines of communication at Bronkhurst Spruit. On the 25th July they joined the regiment at Middleburg, and were on trek with Colonel Benson's column. They were round Carolina and Ermelo districts, and took part in some good captures. The company did several long marches. From Carolina to Koomati Valley was twenty-two miles in one day, and there were two night marches of forty-four miles under Colonel Benson. On two occasions he thanked the company for the able and willing spirit in which they had performed their work.

Along with C Company of the 91st, the Volunteer Company was engaged in a successful night raid at Rietvlei. On the 6th September the 91st left Benson's column at Groot Olifant's River Station and marched to Witbank. Up to this date the regiment had marched 2,675 miles, and Witbank was the 218th camp. Shortly afterwards Benson's column met with a serious reverse, but fortunately the Highlanders were not in it, as at one time was feared. They rejoined Benson's column for a short while on 9th September at Middleburg, but on the 13th October finally left him, and proceeded as garrison of the Delagoa Line from Estfabricken to Balmoral, where they did blockhouse duty for the remainder of their stay. The regiment was then under the command of Colonel Wilson, with Lieut.-Colonel Urmston as second, and Lieutenant Neilson as Adjutant.

We have frequently referred to the great obligations that the Volunteers were under to Colonel Trotter, commanding the Regimental District ; but

time and tide wait for no man, and the inexorable age limit, or rather the expiry of his period of command, terminated his connection with the Greenock Volunteers, as well as with the other Battalions of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. A farewell banquet was given him at Stirling on the evening of 7th May, 1902, and full justice was done to him in the speeches of the Marquis of Graham and others. Not only had he wrought hard in the mobilisation of the troops during the South African War, and despatched the Reservists, Militia, and Volunteers with wonderful celerity, but he had administered the war funds for comforts to the men, established a Soldiers' Home at Stirling, and finally was largely instrumental in the erection of the useful institution at Dunblane for the education of the orphan sons of soldiers and sailors. The work which they went through at the Castle, during the war, he described as in excess of anything he had seen, with perhaps the exception of the time in the Soudan when they were trying—unfortunately without success—to relieve General Gordon at Khartoum.

The advent of peace in June, 1902, was a matter of sincere congratulation and hearty rejoicing in Greenock. No one imagined when war was thrust upon us by President Kruger, that it was to last for the long period of two and a half years. We little dreamed that, in the Boers, we had a prepared foe, a nation of rifle shots; that, opposed to the British Forces, were able Generals, such as Joubert, De Wet, and Botha, with superior armaments and superior ammunition. Reputations were lost and won in the war, but the names of Lord Roberts, Lord Kitchener, Sir Archibald Hunter, and General French will be handed down for generations as men who adorned the positions they held, and who were equal, if not superior, to their predecessors in the British Army.

We are chiefly concerned, however, with the doings

of the Volunteers, and one of the brightest pages in our national history is the record of the way in which, all over the kingdom, during the dismal days of December, 1899, and afterwards, they gallantly stepped into the breach and placed their services at the disposal of their Queen and country. Despite this, the Volunteer motto has ever been "Defence, not Defiance," and the people of these isles are a peace-loving people ; so, when peace was proclaimed, great was the rejoicing thereat. The town was thronged with a happy people, bands of music paraded the streets, and the brass and pipe bands of the regiment were conveyed in illuminated cars of peace from Port-Glasgow to Ashton, playing patriotic airs, and adding to the enthusiasm of countless thousands who seemed to have no disposition to retreat indoors.

At a municipal banquet given by Provost Anderson to celebrate the occasion, he struck a right note when he said : They were not at all disposed to manifest any spirit of superiority over those they had conquered. They were now part of themselves. They were now a portion of the great Empire with which Britons were all proud to be associated. They were under King Edward. They were under the British flag ; and he thought he was right when he said that that flag was not the emblem of tyranny, it was the emblem of goodwill, peace, and equity.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

WITH the conclusion of hostilities came the recall of the Third Active Service Company, under Major Black, which left Cape Town on 9th July, and arrived in Southampton on the last day of the same month. There were no casualties among the 1st Battalion section of the company, although two members of other sections were killed : Private J. Clannachan, of Neilston, by railway collision, on the way from Cape Town to Balmoral ; and Private George Gray, also of Neilston, shot at Driekuil.

The operations of the company in South Africa were chiefly in connection with the Boer drives under the supreme command of General Sir Ian Hamilton and as part of General Sir Walter Kitchener's column. They reached Balmoral on 16th March, 1902, and took over the blockhouses from the 2nd Active Service Company, and on the 20th were ordered to join the regiment at Klerksdorp to go on trek after De-la-Rey and Kemp's commandos in Western Transvaal. With half of the Cameron Highlanders they marched about, between Klerksdorp and Driekuil. On the 28th April they rejoined Kitchener's column at Kietfontein, and afterwards trekked to Zindelengfontein, then again to Rhenoster Spruit and Iagdspruit, close to Klerksdorp. The most of the month of May was occupied in trekking, with the 91st, under Kitchener to Bultfontein, Karrekuil, Roouvaal, Schierfontein, Egrotegelink, and thence into Vryburg, which finished Ian Hamilton's western drive. On the 15th May the regiment left Vryburg for Klerksdorp, where Colonel Dudley Stewart, of the Northumberland Fusiliers, our Adjutant, was commandant, and gave his old comrades a hearty welcome. On the 1st June peace was declared, and on the 12th

the company was ordered home, and left Klerksdorp for Pietermaritzburg to wait the Troopers' arrival at Durban, where they embarked for home on the 4th July.

Of the 35 men of the Third Active Service Company, including one officer, who left the Battalion for South Africa, not one had been left in hospital, although three had been left behind because they had obtained employment. It is surely a record that, after five months' trekking up and down in South Africa, the men came back sound in wind and limb, after having done their day's darg and all that was asked of them. They were highly complimented by Colonel Wilson, commanding the 91st, Lord Kitchener, General Sir Ian Hamilton, and General Sir Walter Kitchener, with the latter of whom they had operated in rounding up the Boers. The Battalion paraded in great strength on their arrival home, in Greenock, on 2nd August. They detrained at Cartsdyke Station, where they were met by Provost Anderson. A procession was formed for the march to the Town Hall, headed by mounted constables, with the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Councillors in carriages, the brass and pipe bands of the regiment, the Third Active Service Company, and the Battalion. The town from Cartsdyke to the Council Chambers was *en fete*, and flags and streamers were displayed all along the route of the procession. The streets were lined with spectators, who received the returning Volunteers with the greatest enthusiasm. About nine o'clock the troops marched into the Town Hall, the band playing the regimental quick-step, "Highland Laddie." Scarcely an inch of available space was unoccupied in the hall, and the whole scene was a repetition of the enthusiastic scenes witnessed when the preceding two companies arrived back from the Front. Provost Anderson gave them a very graceful welcome on the part of the Corporation and the citizens, and presented

gold medals commemorative of their patriotic services to the undernoted :—

Capt. and Hon. Major G. H. Black.
 Lieut. J. M. Lamont.
 Col.-Sergt. Shearer.
 Corpl. Robertson.
 Drummer D. M'Lachlan.
 Drummer J. Wilson.
 Stretcher Bearer A. M'Lean.
 Stretcher Bearer J. M'Leod.
 Pte. R. Bain.
 Pte. L. Blair.
 Pte. J. Boyd.
 Pte. H. Buchanan.
 Pte. D. Clark.
 Pte. J. Craig.
 Pte. D. Crawford.
 Pte. J. Gothard.
 Pte. R. Halliday.
 Pte. T. Holmes.
 Pte. M. F. Jackson.
 Pte. G. Leslie.
 Pte. R. Lucas.
 Pte. P. Lynch.
 Pte. R. Martin.
 Pte. G. M'Grannachan.
 Pte. H. M'Lachlan.
 Pte. H. M'Nab.
 Pte. N. Miller.
 Pte. R. Mills.
 Pte. W. Morrison.
 Pte. Geo. Roberts.
 Pte. G. Stables.
 Pte. R. Sweeney.
 Pte. W. Thomson.
 Pte. D. Anderson.
 Pte. J. C. Bell.
 Pte. Dan. Orr.

The men were afterwards entertained to supper in the Saloon of the Town Hall, where, among the rest, the Provost presented Colonel Lamont, on behalf of the Corporation, with a massive gold medallion in recognition of his patriotic services in connection with the war in South Africa. Although it was nearly midnight when the Port-Glasgow men reached their native town, they received a most enthusiastic welcome. Through streets that were gaily decorated and densely crowded, the bronzed soldiers marched to the Drill Hall, where they were welcomed home by

Captain James Moffat Anderson, an ardent young officer, now, alas ! gone to his rest. On a subsequent evening the Active Service men were fittingly entertained to supper by Captain Anderson and officers.

CHAPTER XL.

THE presentation of war medals to the members of the Second and Third Active Service Companies was a most interesting occasion. It took place in the Town Hall on 14th October, 1902.

The presentation was made by Mr M. Hugh Shaw Stewart, who was accompanied to the platform of the crowded hall by the Provost, Mr James Reid, M.P., and many of the leading citizens of Greenock. Lady Alice Shaw Stewart added to the interest of the occasion, and to the gratification of the khaki-clad warriors, by pinning the medals on their breasts.

The following are the names of the decorated men :—

2ND ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY.

Col.-Sergt. James Wight.
Sergt. W. Millar.
Corpl. C. Currie.
Pte. W. Tulloch.
Pte. S. Paterson.
Pte. D. Munn.
Pte. J. H. Roberts.
Pte. R. Richardson.
Pte. T. Shaw.
Pte. F. Bowman.
Pte. A. Allan.
Pte. D. Chittick.
Pte. A. Campbell.
Pte. J. Crewe.
Pte. D. Gillies.
Pte. A. Davidson.

3RD ACTIVE SERVICE COMPANY.

Lieut. J. M. Lamont.
Col.-Sergt. R. Shearer.
Corpl. George Roberts.
Lce.-Corpl. D. Robertson.
Drummer D. M'Lachlan.
Drummer J. Wilson.
Stretcher-Bearer A. M'Lean.
Stretcher-Bearer J. M'Leod.
Pte. R. Bain.
Pte. P. Lynch.
Pte. L. Blair.
Pte. J. Boyd.

Pte. H. Buchanan.
 Pte. D. Clark,
 Pte. J. Craig,
 Pte. D. Crawford.
 Pte. J. Gothard.
 Pte. R. Halliday.
 Pte. T. Holmes.
 Pte. J. M. Jackson.
 Pte. G. Leslie.
 Pte. R. Lucas,
 Pte. R. Martin.
 Pte. W. M'Granachan.
 Pte. H. M'Lachlan.
 Pte. H. M'Nab.
 Pte. M. Millar.
 Pte. R. Mills.
 Pte. W. Morrison.
 Pte. G. Stables.
 Pte. R. Sweeney.
 Pte. W. Thomson.

Although the number of men had been limited by the War Office regulations, 75 good men and true went out from the Battalion to join the regiment and serve their Queen and country in South Africa, besides over 100 who took service in the Imperial Yeomanry, Scottish Horse, South African Constabulary, Dunraven's, and other corps. As far as we know, only five of the number are lying under the veldt, so that the Greenock men had good luck, or, rather, were mercifully protected amid all the chances and changes of horrid war.

At the conclusion of the ceremony in the Town Hall, Colour-Sergeant Wight was presented by his company with a gold watch, which, with a gift made to him before embarking for South Africa, may be said to have "watched and chained him for life."

On the 26th March, 1903, the last ceremony in connection with the South African War, as far as Greenock was concerned, took place in the Mid Parish Church, when a memorial brass was unveiled to the memory of Greenock's fallen Volunteers. This sacred duty was performed by the Lady Octavia Shaw Stewart, in the presence of the Battalion, the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council, officers of the Artillery,

Submarine Miners, and the Garrison Staff at Fort Matilda.

A very solemn religious ceremony was performed by the Rev. W. W. Beveridge, Acting Chaplain of the Battalion, who delivered a beautiful "In Memoriam" address, concluding with these memorable words: "Here, in this venerable house of God, the roll of the heroic dead will remain, keeping their memory green long after we, who are gathered this night, are laid in our quiet graves. Here the memorial of their patriotic self-sacrifice will stand, telling to generations yet unborn the story of their gallant service, the crown and glory of this Battalion; and stirring by its inspiration other hearts to follow in their footsteps, who loved country and duty more than life, and were 'faithful unto death.'"

The "Dead March" was then played by the band, after which Lady Octavia unveiled the brass. This being done, the touching tune, "The Land o' the Leal," was played by Pipe-Major Cameron, followed by "The Last Post" played by the buglers.

The brass is placed inside the church, immediately above the main doorway. It bears the following inscription on the left panel: "Erected by the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of 1st (Renfrewshire) Volunteer Battalion Princess Louise's Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, in commemoration of the patriotic self-sacrifice of their comrades of the Battalion who died on active service in South Africa during the campaign of 1899 to 1902." On the right panel are the names of the men, viz. :—

Trooper George Rankin Benson, Imperial Yeomanry, died of wounds at Aberdeen, Cape Colony.

Corporal David Richmond Aitken, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, died of enteric at Pretoria.

Trooper Francis Louis Rodolph Laurent, Imperial Yeomanry, died of enteric at Pretoria.

Trooper Robert Calderhead, Imperial Yeomanry, drowned near Wepener.

Trooper Alexander Scorgie, South African Constabulary, died of enteric at Martin's Rust.

At the top of the panel are the words, "Faithful unto death," and at the bottom, "To faithful warriors cometh rest."

CHAPTER XLI.

KING EDWARD was crowned in August, 1902. In connection with the Coronation a detachment of twenty-five men, who had served in South Africa, under the command of Lieut. R. E. Wilson, and accompanied by the Commanding Officer, took part in the great parade, in London, at that historical pageant. Originally it was intended that a larger number should have gone to the Coronation, which was first fixed for June; but at the last moment, owing to the alarming illness of the King, all the arrangements were cancelled. When the King happily recovered, the detachments were all reduced in numbers, in the interests of economy.

Our party had a hard but happy time of it. We journeyed to London on a Friday, with the Submarine Miners as fellow-travellers, and with them "dossed" in the Electrical Engineers' Drill Hall, Vauxhall. Sleep was out of the question, as we were like boys out for a holiday, and midnight "smokers" for both officers and men were the order of the day. Reveillé sounded on Saturday, about four a.m. After breakfast, we marched from Vauxhall to Hyde Park, where we were brigaded under General Sir Ian Hamilton, whose well-known face and figure (with limp arm) we at once recognised. After the usual waste of time, we marched down to our position in front of Marlborough House. As we neared our objective we were greeted with rounds of cheering and clapping of hands, as we were the only kilted corps in sight. The men looked magnificent, and were as proud as peacocks, and so was I of them. In front of "Malborough" House, as it is called by the Cockneys, we were fortunate to see the "meet" of the King's A.D.C.'s before they joined the Royal procession. At once we spotted the veteran Earl Wemyss (Lord

Elcho of Volunteer fame), Lord Blythswood, and our well-known neighbour, Colonel Stevenson, C.B., of the 9th Lanark Rifle Volunteers.

The procession no words can describe. It was like a kaleidoscope for colour and rapidity. Everything fell out of apparent confusion into beautiful order, and no sooner was one picture shown than another even more striking was presented to your view. We were on duty till the afternoon, and pretty well tired of our stand by that time, so the rest of our time in London, after the call from labour to refreshment had been attended to, was devoted to sight-seeing.

The first State visit of the King, to Edinburgh, on 12th May, 1903, gave the Volunteers another opportunity of showing their loyalty to their Sovereign. At the Levee held at the Palace of ancient Holyrood a limited number of officers were permitted to attend. Colonel Lamont was present, and the following were presented by General Sir Archibald Hunter for the first time: Majors Lyle, Paton, and Wilson. Other local officers at the Levee were: Colonel C. C. Scott, Major W. Campbell, Captain Macfarlan, R. and D. R.G.A.; Major Neill and Surgeon-Captain Rowan, Submarine Miners.

The Royal visit to Glasgow was, however, of greater interest to the battalion, as the numbers were not limited, and every one was anxious to see the King. Early in the forenoon of Thursday, the 14th May, the battalion proceeded by special train to Glasgow, 800 strong, and formed part of Section 2, under Colonel Dobie, R.A., lining the route from the entrance, West End Park, to the junction of New City Road. Our position was one of the best, commencing in front of the Fine Art Galleries, which the King officially opened. It was a very fine parade, and the battalion showed up well. The *finale* was rather inglorious, as we lunched together in an old tramway

loft provided by the Glasgow Corporation. As if in grim irony, but with the kindest intentions, the proprietor of the neighbouring Zoo sent over an invitation to lunch under his hospitable roof; but as "the animals were already feeding" it was declined with grateful thanks.

CHAPTER XLII.

AT the annual inspection, on the 12th June of this year, the battalion again mustered 1,000 strong, and as the Drill Hall was crowded, at the close of the proceedings, mention was made that Sir Michael Shaw Stewart had given a feu to the battalion on which to erect a new hall on the west side of the parade ground and next Breadalbane Terrace. This site his successor, Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, has handsomely presented to the battalion, and the new Drill Hall now occupies that position.

The camp of this year was conceded on all hands to be the most successful and interesting in the history of the battalion. To begin with, it was held at the great camping ground of Salisbury Plain, and in the second place, we were placed alongside Line regiments only, including the Rifle Brigade, the Hants and the Sherwood Foresters, 1st and 2nd Dorsets, Shropshires, besides Field Artillery, Mounted Infantry, and some Departmental Corps. The country, with its environments, was altogether new to the men, and being the only Volunteers in camp, the battalion smartened up in a manner it has never done before. Park House Camp, Tidworth, was the exact designation of the camp to which the battalion proceeded on 1st July. It is beautifully situated in a picturesque district, the country being undulating and wooded.

We had field days by ourselves and also with the troops of all arms, which were very suggestive of real warfare, with the booming of the big guns and the smart movements of the cavalry and infantry. A fine spirit of *camaraderie* prevailed between the battalion and the other troops at Park House. The Brigadier-General, the Hon. C. H. Law, C.B., before the battalion marched off for home, expressed his satis-

faction with our conduct and efficiency, and pronounced the battalion "fit for active service."

Like our comrades of the A. and S. Highlanders, we were facetiously called the Jocks, and to show the estimation in which we were held by the Tommies, an amusing episode occurred. One of the Tommies had been communicating his impressions in a letter to a friend, and unconsciously left them on the blotting pad. On being deciphered by one of the Greenock men who afterwards occupied the same seat, they read as follows: "The Jocks march not half bad. We have to run to keep up with them." Whether that be true or not, the marching powers of the battalion were at their best.

Beyond an accident to the Padre and a permanent disablement to one of the Maxim gun detachment, the health of the battalion was excellent, and all went home fit and strong, only regretting that the training was not extended another week, after going such a distance and at such expense to the country. One of our most distinguished visitors was the Chief Staff Officer to Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood, at Salisbury, General J. M. Grierson, who came expressly from that ancient city to see the battalion of his own countrymen, he being a native of Glasgow.

War clasps were given the Second and Third Active Service men on the 18th September. The former have five bars, namely, South Africa 1901, South Africa 1902, Cape Colony, Orange Free State, and Transvaal, while the latter have four—South Africa 1902, Transvaal, Orange Free State, and Cape Colony.

With the presentation of these bars, our connection with the South African War practically came to an end, but so pleased were we at the patriotism of the battalion we conceived the idea of perpetuating the names of the Volunteers by inscribing them on a

scroll, which might be erected in the new Drill Hall. We are not sure that the list is complete, but as far as could be ascertained the following list comprises the names of the officers and men who volunteered for "the Front" :—

A Company—Pte. J. Livingstone, Scottish Horse.

Pte. N. Macphail, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. R. Richardson, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. W. Wilson, Scottish Horse.

Pte. F. L. R. Laurent, Imperial Yeomanry.

B Company—Lieut. R. E. Wilson, Imperial Yeomanry.

Pte. G. R. Benson, Imperial Yeomanry.

Pte. A. Campbell, Scottish Horse.

Pte. J. Crewe, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. Wm. Culloden, Imperial Yeomanry.

Pte. W. Jeffrey, Cycle Batt.

Pte. D. M'Intosh, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. F. Mackenzie, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. A. Campbell, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. D. Crawford, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. W. M'Grannachan, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. D. M'Lachlan, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. R. Mills, 3rd Vol. Coy.

C Company—Pte. A. Allan, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. T. M'Farlane, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. T. Shaw, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. A. C. Smith, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. J. E. Bell, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. R. Halliday, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. T. Holmes, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. G. Stables, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. J. Craig, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. R. Bain, 3rd Vol. Coy.

D Company—Lieut. A. E. Stewart, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. R. Blue, S.A.C.

Pte. J. Davidson, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. J. M'Intyre, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. W. Young, Imperial Yeomanry.

Pte. P. Lynch, 3rd Vol. Coy.

E Company—Pte. F. Bowman, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. D. Chittick, 2nd Vol. Coy.

Pte. W. Clark, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. J. Forrest, S.A.C.

Pte. T. G. Harris, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. A. Scorgie, S.A.C.

Pte. D. Anderson, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. L. Blair, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. D. Clark, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. G. Leslie, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. R. Lucas, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. A. M'Lean, 3rd Vol. Coy.

Pte. H. M'Nab, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. R. Miller, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. R. Sweeney, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. W. Thomson, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. J. Wilson, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. R. Martin, 3rd Vol. Coy.

F Company—Sergt. J. A. Brand, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Corpl. C. Purdon, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. R. Calderhead, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. A. Holmes, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. G. M'Arthur, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. M. F. Jackson, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. George Roberts, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Lieut. James M. Lamont, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. William Lamont, jr., Scottish Horse.
 Pte. H. M'Donald, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. J. M'Gill, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. W. G. M'Intyre, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. J. Muir, Scottish Horse.
 Pte. J. Murray, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. J. Roberts, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. W. Tulloch, 2nd Vol. Coy.

G Company—Sergt. Walter Miller, 2nd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. D. Craig, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. J. Dallas, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. W. G. Doig, S.A.C.
 Pte. W. J. Kerr, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. A. M'Kerrel, S.A.C.
 Pte. D. Munn, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. S. Patterson, 2nd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. D. Took, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. S. E. Walker, S.A.C.
 Pte. J. Boyd, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. J. Gothard, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. W. Morrison, 3rd Vol. Coy.

H Company—Lieut. N. E. Rae, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Sergt. James Brown, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Sergt. F. Cubett, S.A.C.
 Sergt. Haynes, S.A.C.
 Pte. W. T. Anderson, 2nd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. R. N. Campbell, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. W. Crawford, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. W. Davidson, Vol. Coy., Natal Fusiliers.
 Pte. J. C. Duley, Cycle Batt.
 Pte. J. Fulton, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. P. Petersen, S.A.C.
 Pte. J. M'Leod, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. Donald Orr, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. D. Robertson, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. J. Davidson, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. A. Cameron, Imperial Yeomanry.

I Company—Pte. C. Currie, 2nd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. D. Gillies, 2nd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. J. Ormsby, 1st Vol. Coy.

Pte. J. E. Parker, S.A.C.
 Pte. J. Smith, 1st Vol. Coy.
 Pte. Watson, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. J. Brown, Imperial Yeomanry.
 Pte. J. Maxwell, Imperial Yeomanry.

Cycle Company—Corpl. D. R. Aitken, 2nd Vol. Coy.
 L.-Corpl. J. Gillies, Cycle Batt.
 Pte. C. M'Gregor, R.A.M.C.
 Pte. A. Wilkinson, S.A.C.
 Pte. D. M'Kean, Scottish Horse.
 Pte. H. Buchanan, 3rd Vol. Coy.
 Pte. L. S. Milloy, Imperial Yeomanry.

In addition, Col.-Sergt. J. Wight and Col.-Sergt. Shearer went to South Africa with the Second and Third Volunteer Companies respectively.

CHAPTER XLIII.

IN December, 1903, the Battalion sustained a heavy loss in the death of its first Commanding Officer and Honorary Colonel, Sir Michael Robert Shaw Stewart, Baronet, Lord Lieutenant of the County. Like a shock of corn fully ripe, he fell before the sickle of "the Reaper," full of years and full of honour. One of the fine old school of county magnates, he was universally respected and revered, and by none more than the members of his old Battalion, of which he was so fond, and which was so proud of him. Up to that date there had been no break in the ranks of the Commanding Officers, and the simple obsequies in the auld kirkyard of Inverkip were attended by Colonel D. M. Latham, Colonel William Ross, Colonel William O. Leitch, Colonel William Lamont, Colonel W. U. Park, and other representatives of the Battalion. His position in the Battalion was shortly afterwards filled by his successor to the baronetcy and estates, Sir Hugh Shaw Stewart, the energetic Chairman of the Renfrewshire Territorial Association.

The "Gazette" of 12th December, 1903, intimated my retiral from the command of the Battalion, and the Battalion Order which was published shortly thereafter is the best expression I can give of my feelings on that occasion, so I shall give it *in extenso*:—

"Colonel Lamont, in retiring from the command of the Battalion, in which he has had the honour of serving for forty-four years, thirty-four of which have been as a commissioned officer, wishes to thank most cordially all ranks for the loyal and cheerful support given him during the eleven years of his command. It has been by this co-operation that the Battalion has attained its present distinguished position, and it is only thus that it will continue to prosper. The loyal enthusiasm shown by the Battalion during the late South African War will ever remain a tradition to be cherished, and the numbers who

volunteered for active service must ever be remembered with pride by all ranks. Each successive camp has increased the efficiency of the Battalion, and the culminating point was reached at Salisbury Plain, when the Brigadier reported the Battalion as 'fit for active service.' Colonel Lamont hopes that the members of the Battalion will live up to its traditions, and esteem it an honour to belong to a corps which has such a splendid history. He will never cease to take an interest in its welfare, and hopes yet in some way to help its onward progress."

Colonel W. U. Park, who succeeded to the command of the Battalion, was, like his predecessor, a ranker—that is to say, had passed through all the ranks of the service with distinction. Although he had a long service in the lower grades, he took only about one year to climb from his company into the Commanding Officer's saddle. He was always an enthusiast in rifle shooting, and in the early days of the National Rifle Association was a frequent and successful attender of its meetings.

It will not be out of place at this stage to give the years in which members of the Battalion have been in the final stage of the Queen's :—

- 1871—Sergt. M. Caldwell.
- 1872—Sergt. M. Caldwell.
- 1874—Lieut. D. Scobie and Corpl. Edward Caird.
- 1875—Sergt. J. M'Isaac.
- 1876—Sergt. W. U. Park.
- 1879—Col.-Sergt. W. U. Park.
- 1880—Pte. P. M'Farlane, Lieut. J. K. Stewart, and Pte. M. Caldwell.
- 1881—Corpl. W. Caldwell and Pte. Peter M'Farlane.
- 1882—Corpl. D. Mackay and Pte. Caldwell.
- 1883—Pte. M. Caldwell, Corpl. W. Caldwell, and Lieut. J. M'Isaac.
- 1884—Sergt. Thomas Ritchie and Lieut. W. U. Park.
- 1885—Lieut. J. M'Isaac.
- 1886—Pte. M. Caldwell and Corpl. W. Caldwell.
- 1887—Lieut. J. M'Isaac and Pte. M. Caldwell.
- 1888—Pte. J. Simpson and Corpl. W. Caldwell.
- 1889—Sergt. A. Montgomery.
- 1891—L.-Sergt. D. Macfie and Corpl. Caldwell.
- 1892—Pte. M. Caldwell.
- 1893—Col.-Sergt. J. Adam and Sergt. J. M'Nab.
- 1894—Sergt. George Dick.
- 1895—Major J. M'Isaac, L.-Sergt. J. H. Halliday, and Corpl. W. Caldwell.



COL. WILLIAM LAMONT



COL. W. U. PARK.

1897—Pte. M. Caldwell and Sergt. J. M'Nab.

1899—Pte. J. Robertson.

1906—Sergt. Charles Baldwin (King's) and Pte. J. M'Call.

1907—Sergt. J. G. Graham.

The Scottish National trophy (the Caledonian Challenge Shield) was on several occasions won by members of the Battalion. In 1878 the winner was Lieut. John M'Isaac, and in 1883, 1889, and 1892 by that redoubtable shot and keen Volunteer, Corpl. William Caldwell. His brother Matthew on one occasion tied for the Queen's Prize, but lost the honour in shooting off, although the money was divided. The retiral and subsequent death of these two brothers was a great loss to the Battalion's shooting strength. They were always reliable, and a tower of strength in the Battalion team, where, in addition to their own personal prowess, their advice was of great value to the Captain. Men such as these, although their success was occasionally grudged by those less fortunate, were an object-lesson to their comrades, and raised the standard of rifle shooting to a very high level.

In September, 1904, considerable consternation was caused in Rothesay by the intimation that, under a new War Office scheme, the Rothesay company was to be disbanded. It was by no means the weakest company numerically in the Battalion, and certainly was for many years the strongest from a shooting point of view. It was efficient in all other respects, and excepting that it was situated at a considerable distance from the headquarters of the Battalion, and that Rothesay was not loyal enough to keep up a supply of young officers for the company, not an argument could be brought forward against its continuance. Hundreds of companies throughout the country are as far removed from their base, and steps might have been taken to procure local officers, so as to avert the calamity of disbanding a company which, for the long period of 45 years, had been a credit to

the county. Rothesay was too late in asserting itself, and although a public meeting was held to protest against the threatened dissolution of the company, earlier steps should have been taken by their Parliamentary representative and friends, and we doubt not another result might have crowned their efforts. As it was, the Government was immovable, and, backed up by their military advisers, resolutely refused to listen to any appeal on the matter. Not unexpectedly, the Parliamentary representation of the county changed at the first opportunity, and we are safe in saying that the treatment of the Rothesay company had not a little to do with it. The last presentation of prizes was appropriately presided over by Lieut.-Colonel John M'Isaac, who had been connected with the company for forty years, and who is well known in the shooting world. His eye is not yet dim, neither has his right hand lost its cunning.

CHAPTER XLIV.

THE third Royal Review of the Scottish Volunteers took place at Edinburgh on Monday, the 18th September, 1905. The day chosen was a very unfortunate one, as it necessitated Sunday travelling on the part of many of the regiments, and also that they sleep over night in Edinburgh. In view of this 120,000 pairs of blankets were sent into the city from the Army Stores and distributed over the different schools and rendezvous where the troops were to be quartered when they arrived on the Sunday evening or early on Monday morning.

The parade was a great show, and the weather was on its best behaviour. The Greenock men knocked two days into one by not going to bed on Sunday night. They began to muster at midnight for their journey to Edinburgh. The scene at "the wee short oor ayont the twal" was a stirring one at the Central Station, Cathcart Street, which was the rendezvous for the Naval Volunteers and the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Prompt at two a.m. the train left the station amid a salvo of cheers. The Miners left from Fort Matilda, and the Artillery from Greenock West Station.

The Volunteers arrived at five o'clock in Edinburgh (Pilrig Station), and marched in good style to St. Leonard's School, St. Leonard's Hill, where a hot and hearty breakfast was served out to all ranks. Thereafter the Battalion marched to the Meadows for final instructions before proceeding to the Queen's Park.

Quite a number of veterans accompanied them. Among those who were present at the two previous reviews were: Colonel Wm. Ross, Colonel William Lamont, and Colour-Sergt. J. L. Mathieson, and

Sergeant P. Anderson, who was present at the 1860 review ; and of those who were at the 1881 parade : Lieut.-Colonel Tannahill, Lieut.-Colonel J. K. Stewart, Lieut.-Colonel J. M'Isaac, Major H. W. Walker, Q.M.S. J. L. Muir, Arm.-Sergeant Haxton, Colour-Sergeants W. Maclachlan, J. Barclay, J. Adam, James Campbell, J. Kerr, Robert Davidson, J. Harvey, R. Kirk, Wm. Archibald, Sergeants W. Hardie, D. Kennedy, J. G. Bisset, Q.M.S. B. Kidd, Sergeant A. Reid, Band-Sergeant Savage, Corporal C. Campbell, Sergeant Paterson, and Private W. Downie. Among those serving in the Battalion, who were present at the '81 Review, were : Colonel W. U. Park, Lieut.-Colonel A. Lyle, Colour-Sergeants L. M'Millan, M'Neill, and P. S. Williamson, Sergeants J. M'Intyre, J. Simpson, J. Innes, Lance-Sergt. W. Caddy, Privates J. Adam and J. M'Menemy.

The two chief features of the Review which impressed themselves on our minds and memories were the number of Battalions — Infantry and Engineers—clad in khaki (a reflection of the recent war) and the obsolete guns which trailed past in the hands of the magnificent Volunteer Artillery Brigades. The Artillery has been badly treated by the War Office for years past. The existence of so many could not be justified, and we believe that it is to the Artillery we owe the creation of the Territorial Army. Mr Haldane found he could not utilise them all, so he put the whole force into the melting pot and retained what he thought to be the most valuable. The wonder is that, in spite of discouragements and defective armament, the Artillery corps throughout the country held on so long and remained so efficient.

The 1905 Review was a huge success, and gave a much-needed fillip to the Volunteers, who were living a threatened life and looking with grave apprehension to their future. Another feature of the Review which

we had almost forgot was the Parade, if we may call it so, of the veteran Volunteers, who were present in front of the grand stand to the number of 1,600—300 officers and the remainder N.C.O. and privates who had been at one or both of the previous Reviews. More might have been made of the veterans.

The march past of the Greenock men was distinctly good, and their commanding officer got his reward in being decorated with the Royal Victorian Order "on the occasion of the Review by His Majesty of the Scottish Volunteer Forces at Edinburgh," so runs the *Gazette* notice. About twenty others were similarly decorated, and for the first time Scotland shared the honours with the predominant partner—England.

November, 1906, saw the passing of Colonel David Macduff Latham, the second commanding officer of the Greenock Battalion, at the good old age of eighty-two. In his case the four score years did not bring labour and sorrow, but up till near the close of his busy life he maintained the erect and soldierly bearing so familiar to his comrades. To know him was to love him, and to find that beneath a cold exterior there beat a warm and generous heart which never failed a friend.

Colonel Park commanded the Battalion for the regulation period of four years, and during that time camp training took place at Barry, Stobs, and Kilchattan Bay. The latter was first favourite, being easy of access and having very good manœuvring ground, thanks to the kindness of the Marquis of Bute and his tenants. Very instructive field days took place over the Suidh Hill and the adjacent kopjes, right down to the Garroch Heads and Dungoil Bay. Happy memories cluster round Kilchattan, with its kindly villagers and visitors, its lovely walks over the hill or by the shore, not to speak of the moor

road to Rothesay, which was a favourite trek of the lads in tartan, ending, appropriately enough, in a visit to the popular rendezvous of the Kettle Drum.

Colonel Park retired after 44 years' service, like his predecessor, 17 of which he spent in the ranks and 27 as a commissioned officer. He attended the meetings of the National Rifle Association for 17 years in succession, and was three times in the final stage for the Queen's Prize. Few Battalions in the United Kingdom can show such service among their senior officers as the First Renfrew, and to this we attribute much of the success it has gained.

The 14th October, 1859, was a red letter day in the history of the Glasgow Corporation, when Loch Katrine was tapped by Her Majesty Queen Victoria and the real mountain dew ran into the city. About 400 men of the Glasgow Volunteers formed one of the guards of honour to Her Majesty on that occasion, and ever since, with unfailing regularity, the old guard has celebrated the occasion by an annual dinner. Their number has now been reduced by death to 35, and as their jubilations are now like to cease for ever it may not be amiss to mention that another guard of honour was formed of the Glasgow Celtic Society, reinforced by a large detachment of perfervid Celts from Greenock, under Collector Colin Campbell, who afterwards became a Captain in the Greenock Highland Corps, then named the 10th R.R.V. The only survivor we know of is that worthy old Highlander Donald Campbell, of the Mercantile Marine Office, but prominent among the party were the late Archibald Mackenzie, agent for the "Ranter-pikes," or Liverpool traders, and Mr Donald Macfarlane, coach proprietor. The Greenock men, arrayed in Highland costume, and each carrying a sword or a cutlass, which latter were borrowed from Macalister & Fyfe, the well-known ship-chandlers, proceeded by steamer to Arrochar, crossed to

Inversnaid, and thence marched to Loch Katrine. Preceded by pipers, they marched in with drawn swords to the very spot where the Queen was to land and perform the inaugural ceremony. At the sight of the Celts the Sassenach at once gave way, and our Greenock contingent remained masters of the field. When the Queen landed the guard saluted with their swords, in which they had previously been instructed, and Her Majesty graciously acknowledged the salute with a bow. In this way the Greenock Highlanders formed a part of the Queen's Guard of Honour at Loch Katrine, and we recall the incident because it is one which is not generally known.

CHAPTER XLV.

COLONEL PARK was succeeded in command of the 1st V.B. A. and S. Highlanders by Colonel Abram Lyle.

Mr Haldane's Territorial scheme was on the *tapis* at this time, and tentative proposals were made by the military authorities for the distribution of the different arms of the service throughout the country. In these Renfrewshire was badly hit, as the establishment of Infantry units was reduced from three Battalions to two, and the old 3rd Battalion, which was always famous for its shooting prowess, was disbanded. Some of the companies were united with the Paisley Battalion, but the arrangement was not a happy one, as they are remote from their headquarters, and their *esprit de corps* has been broken down. We can only regret the disappearance of the good old 3rd in common with many other Battalions throughout the country.

Colonel Lyle soon had his hands full, recruiting the Battalion so as to keep it outside of the danger zone of amalgamation with another. This fate was happily averted, and the 1st April being the date fixed for the passing of the Volunteer Force and the commencement of the Territorial, a parade took place in the Drill Hall on the evening of the 31st March, which will long be remembered by those who were privileged to take part in the proceedings. The scene was an inspiring and pathetic one, as in addition to the splendid muster of the regiment, about 200 veterans under my command, some in uniform and some in plain clothes, assembled and "fell in" with the Battalion, for the last time under the old *regime*. Prominent among those were Mr John Neill, one of the gallant 108, Colonel Park, Lieut.-Colonel J. K. Stewart, Captain-Commandant Fullarton, Majors

H. W. Walker, Hill, and Livingstone, Lieutenants Gatherer, Adams, and Fulton.

The hall being packed in every part, a move was made to the capacious Artillery Drill Hall in South Street, the veterans leading the column. As viewed from the balcony of the Artillery Hall, the Battalion drawn up in column looked magnificent. After a stirring address by Provost Denholm (an old member of the Battalion) and the distribution of long service medals by Colonel Lyle, the "Last Post" was sounded by the buglers, and the 1st V. B. A. and S. Highlanders ceased to be. The "Reveille" was thereafter sounded, and amid a scene of great enthusiasm the Union Jack was unfurled by the youngest officer, Second Lieutenant H. M'G. Paton, the regiment saluted, and the band played the National Anthem.

In the absence of my two seniors, Colonels Ross and Leitch, I had the honour to say a few words to my old regiment. I concluded by remarking that they had attained a standard of efficiency which few Volunteer Battalions had reached, and I trusted that a hearty response would be made to the invitation to join the second line of the Imperial Army, in which they would find, in respect to pay and allowances, better conditions than they had previously enjoyed, and in which the Battalion would be raised to a higher point of efficiency than it had been in the past. I then, with Colonel Lyle's permission, called upon those who were willing to join the new Battalion, the 5th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, to "slope arms," and nearly every man on parade did so.


It was thus amid a scene of great enthusiasm that the old regiment merged into the new, and the newly-born 5th A. and S.H. will do well to emulate the defunct 1st Renfrew. Prayer by the Senior Chaplain, Rev. W. W. Beveridge, and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" by the Volunteers, appropriately brought the ceremony to a close.

The unfurling of the flag was a fit emblem of the permanence of the Territorial Army. What has been done by the Volunteers may and ought to be done by the Territorials, nay, ought to be better done by them, as many of the conditions are now more favourable to efficiency. They are a properly and scientifically organised army of defence. The framework, at any rate, is there, and at the call of the country and in time of stress the filling-up can easily be effected, and that at very short notice. Here and there we might have wished for a little more elasticity in the regulations; but, taken in the main, they are sound and practical. As time rolls on the Territorial Army will patriotically respond, as far as possible, to the new conditions, and the Army Council will reciprocate by according a generous treatment all round to a force which is the envy and admiration of the civilised world. Mr Haldane has proved himself the most brilliant War Minister of modern times, and has given both time and brains to the thinking out of the great problem of national defence. He has been "in grim earnest," as he said himself, and has thrown sentiment to the winds. He has set a very high ideal of service before the nation, and woe betide it if it does not promptly and willingly respond. This we are persuaded it will do, and we believe that the chronicler of the Greenock Territorials, when he comes to their jubilee, will have nothing to tell but of progress and efficiency never even dreamt of by the Volunteers of 1859.



LT.-COL. A. J. PATON.
COMMANDING 5TH A. & S. HIGHLANDERS.





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