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The Daily Record

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and THE DRESDEN DAILY.

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ARMS AND THE MAN.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

It was a recent privilege of the writer's to witness an imposing military parade in Germany, the chief feature of which was a gallop past of several cavalry regiments. The scene was one calculated to rouse the enthusiasm of the spectators, and it was difficult to repress a natural desire to give vent to one's excitement by cheering as the gallant squadrons rushed past, their arms and accoutrements glittering beneath the rays of the sun, while the ground trembled under the countless iron-shod hooves of the chargers. Line after line swung past in perfect formation, and the scene gave me an impression of irresistible might. From our comfortable seats in the tribune we could look on and admire; but, thought I, were we members of a square waiting to receive a charge from the onrushing wave of steel, we should doubtless experience somewhat different sensations. Sitting by my side was a soldier who had seen much service in different parts of the world, an infantry officer, and to him I communicated my impression that nothing could withstand the onfall of this living wave. He smiled the smile of toleration for my ignorance, and assured me that a regiment of sharpshooters, armed with modern rifles, would make short work of a massed charge by the finest cavalry in the world. "For," he said, "the crack of the first breech-loading rifle was the knell of the cavalry." And then my mind turned to the ever-absorbing problem of arms and the man. War is rapidly evolving into an elaborate mechanical art. Thews and sinews have given place to intellect and inventiveness. Brain versus brawn, with heavy odds on the brain. Before gunpowder burst upon an astonished world through the disintegration of an ingenious monk the worth of a fighting man was measured by his physique. Weight and activity won battles in those days, because even the sinister clothyard arrow was impotent against mail of proved steel. But the arquebus and petronel caused a revolution; no armour was invulnerable to their primitive missiles, and the mail-clad giant, the hero of a hundred lists, crashed ignominiously to earth before a well-directed ball fired by the puniest musketeer.

During one of the many fierce and sanguinary combats of the Franco-German war, a regiment of Prussian infantry was menaced by a body of French horse, the Cuirassiers. The cavalry ranked up for the charge in the shelter of a wood, while the Prussian commander formed his men into a square, bristling with rifle muzzles. Hardly had the square closed up when the French horse broke from the woods at a trot which at once became a gallop, the double lines of cheering troopers sweeping across the open plain at incredible speed, sabres flashing and long horsehair plumes waving in the wind. But the Prussian square faced the oncoming storm inflexibly, with a silence at once ominous and impressive. Now the wave of steel was eight hundred yards away, coming like the wind; now six, now five hundred yards,—surely the square is doomed! Then came a shrill bugle call, and an instant later the rifle muzzles vomited flame, sending a hail of bullets into the charging ranks. Another volley, with hardly a moment's pause, and then one more,—while the breeze wafted away the dense cloud of smoke which enshrouded the square. When it lifted the scene had changed indeed. In place of the former glittering line of Cuirassiers was a horrible litter of men and horses on the ground, writhing in their death throes. The survivors pressed on gallantly, but two more volleys swept them away utterly, and when the smoke again dispersed one solitary

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rider was seen to be within a few yards of the square. He raised his hand in token of surrender, but one of the soldiers, mistaking his attempt to disentangle hand from sword-hilt, shot him through the body. This incident was the apotheosis of the rifle, and since then it has become recognised that the day of spectacular cavalry charges is past. Keen eye and the steady aim are the soldier's best attributes; brute strength counts for next to nothing.

O. G.

BRITISH BIRTHDAY HONOURS

London, June 25.

King Edward has conferred baronetcies on Mr. Beerbohm Tree, the actor and theatrical manager, and Mr. Pinero, the dramatist, on the occasion of the official celebration of His Majesty's birthday today.

THE CRETAN QUESTION.

London, June 24.

Answering various questions in the House of Commons today as to the situation in Crete, the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs said the protecting Powers intended to withdraw their troops on the 27th of July; they had also decided to leave station ships in Cretan waters, but the details had not been settled. In reply to a further question addressed to him by Major Anstruther-Gray, Unionist member for St. Andrew's Burghs, whether each of the four Powers would keep a ship in Cretan waters, Sir Edward Grey repeated that he could not say what form the agreement would have in detail; but the four Powers would act unanimously in taking the necessary steps to maintain the *status quo*.

THE MURDER OF MISS SIGEL.

New York, June 24.

The police consider it possible that Leong, the alleged murderer of Miss Sigel, has also been murdered. It is to be feared that the affair will lead to a renewal of the bloody strife between the conflicting Chinese societies.

SULTAN'S VICTORY IN MOROCCO.

Fez, June 24.

A fight has taken place between El Rhogi's negroes and the Sultan's mahalla under the command of Said Bagdadi, at a spot 10 miles south of Fez. El Rhogi's men were repulsed. The Sultan's victory has been hailed with general acclamation here.

AMERICAN POLICY.

On Wednesday last we published an article from a German-American correspondent on the attitude of the United States towards the present Anglo-German situation, and giving copious extracts from leading American journals. The writer naturally presented the side of the question most favourable to Germany, and the intrinsic value of his article was detrimentally affected by his obvious prejudice. We therefore have additional pleasure in publishing the following from our New York correspondent:

(DAILY RECORD CORRESPONDENT.)

New York, June 16.

The Lake Mohonk Peace Conference has had the effect of focussing American public opinion on the European situation, and practically the entire press has something to say about it. Some of the newspapers incline towards Germany, others towards England, according to the sentiments of their proprietors; but one and all are agreed that the relations between Germany and Great Britain are no concern of ours. During the past few years strenuous efforts have been made both by German and British agencies to gain American sympathy, and some of these efforts have extended to the length of feeling the national pulse to discover whether the partiality extends to either side sufficiently to justify the proposition of an alliance. All such efforts have proved vain, and will continue so. America, like every other civilised nation, gains nothing but benefit from international peace, and is willing to make some sacrifices to maintain it. She possesses far too much sense to take an active side in disputes far away from her own shores and involving interests which by no stretch of the imagination can be construed into her own. If matters between England and Germany reached a head, America would be the first to deplore it, but she would maintain frigid neutrality. All this has been quite manifest in the press comments of late, and the sooner it becomes recognised in the two European countries concerned the better will it be for the prospects of peace. Blood may be thicker than water, but common-sense is still more powerful. This detached attitude does not, of course, prevent journals and people taking a keen interest in the situation. There are some who ridicule the so-called "panic" in England, while others believe English anxiety to be justified. The best newspapers endeavour to calmly weigh the available data, and to give a verdict according to the evidence. Thus, the New York *Tribune* thinks England has a perfect right to insist on the maintenance of her hereditary sea supremacy, admitting at the same time Germany's freedom to build as many warships as *her* needs may call for. The *Tribune's* attitude may be said to sum up general opinion on this side. America is too busy with her many domestic problems and her ever expanding foreign interests to concern herself with the quarrels of countries situated three thousand miles away. Personally speaking, I have never met an American who considers for a moment the advisability or practicability of an offensive alliance between his country and a European Power. Anglo-Americans and German-Americans hold different opinions, perhaps, but their views are not at all representative. In the event of a European struggle it is quite on the cards that Uncle Sam might help to keep the ring clear, but the idea of his acting as a principal should be immediately banished from the realm of practical politics.

W. B.