

MEN ON WHOM WE RELY.

OUR GENERALS ARE NOT MERELY SPURS AND GOLD LACE.

They Are Seasoned Veterans With Schooling in India and Egypt—Sympathy With Their Commands.

The British army has a larger proportion of generals who have seen active service in the field, than can be found in that of any other country. Nearly forty generals of various grades have taken part in the war in South Africa; but in what I have ventured to call our "reserve" of generals, officers who have not been in the present war, and who number considerably more than a hundred, there are very few whose records do not include two or three campaigns.

There are constantly upwards of fifty of our generals in India, and as any army man will tell you, "Indian men are always good men," meaning thereby that they are experienced and proficient commanders, it follows that in them we have a large and reliable reserve of generals. During the last twenty years there have been several campaigns in Egypt and the Sudan, each of which has helped to transform men who otherwise must have been mere closet-students of warfare into trained and tried leaders of armies in the field.

NASCITUR, NON FIT.

While it is no doubt the case that the great soldier, like the great poet or the great anybody else, is born and not made, still it cannot be disputed that knowledge derived from personal observation of actual warfare must be of enormous service; and in this very valuable knowledge our generals are rich. Nor, numerically considered, are they any insignificant body. There are on the active list nearly one hundred and sixty generals, of whom fifteen are of the full rank, thirty or more are lieutenant-generals, and a hundred and ten are major-generals. Brigadier-generals are not usually included in the list of "generals," but if they are added, then our army has close upon two hundred generals.

MUST WORK THEIR WAY.

Among so large a number of generals it may surely be said without offence that all have not the same ability or the same particular gifts, but there can be no question that most of them are capital soldiers; some of them, indeed, have proved themselves remarkably able and brilliant men. Except in altogether unusual circumstances, a general can hardly be a young man; and while some of our generals have reached their rank earlier than others in the service, their average age is rather above than under fifty. All of them have had to "work their way up"—a process which has taken them from thirty to forty years.

Some of them, perhaps, are physically not quite so "fit" as when they were younger; but the conditions which surround an officer's life are such as to make him as good a man practically at fifty, or even sixty, as a civilian who is many years his junior. A general must be able to be in the saddle for many hours at a time if necessary, and the "mobility" of our generals in South Africa shows how well they can stand this test.

GENERALS AND MEN.

The relation between generals and their commands have altered very much for the better in the army during the last twenty or thirty years. Formerly a general had very little connection with, or influence upon, his troops, and took but a comparatively insignificant part in their instruction. He used to be dreaded as a great magnate whose principal function was the carrying out of the annual inspection, and of course he was a familiar feature of a field day; but the man himself was an unknown quantity.

It is quite otherwise to-day. The general now knows his officers and men, and they know their general.

In no other army is there so much sympathy between commander and command as there is in ours, and this applies to the whole body of our generals.

ARE NOT ORNAMENTAL.

It is unquestionably an excellent feature in our Army that our generals are none of them "ornamental" soldiers, holding themselves apart in a sort of splendid isolation, as it were, from their men. On the contrary, knowing what their men can do, they are not likely to be either hurried or flurried.

The personal element has always entered very largely into warfare; so much so, in fact, that nearly all campaigns are identified with the names of individual generals. In our reserve of generals there must needs be many differences of disposition, of temperament, and of character in the men who are comprised within it, and it is well that it should be so. The point to notice is that the field of choice is wide

enough to cover all the operations of war, no matter what their scope.

During the first part of the war in South Africa, the foreign press, in its own kindly and friendly way, flouted and sneered at our generals. They even went so far as to say that President Kruger had issued orders to the effect that his soldiers were on no account to shoot at our generals—because they were of "more use to him living than dead." But when our reserve of generals was drawn upon, and Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener appeared upon the scene of action, with what results is now known to all the earth, these flouts and sneers were replaced by the grudging acknowledgment of the fact that, indisputably, we had generals who were generals indeed.

DREARY NEW YORK.

There are streets which visitors to New York always remark; the characteristic cross streets of the typical up-town region of long regular rows of rectangular residences that look so much alike, with steep similar steps leading up to sombre similar doors and a doctor's sign in every other window. Bleak, barren, echoing streets where during the long, monotonous mornings "rags-an-bot!" are called for, and strawberries are sold from wagons by aid of resonant voices, and nothing else is heard except at long intervals the welcome postman's whistle or the occasional slamming of a carriage door. Meantime the sun gets around to the north side of the street, and the airing of babies and fox-terriers goes on, while down at the corner one elevated train after another approaches, roars, and rumbles away in the distance all day long until at last the men begin coming home from business. These are the ordinary unromantic streets on which live so few New Yorkers in fiction, it is so easy to put them on the avenue or Gramercy Park or Washington Square, but on which most of them seem to live in real life. A slice of all its layers of society and all its mixed interests may be seen in a walk along one of these typical streets which stretch across the island as straight and stiff as iron grooves and waste not an inch in their progress from one river, out into which they have gradually encroached, to the other river into which also they extend. It is a short walk, the island is so narrow.

PRINCE CH'ING.

"Prince Ch'ing is well known, and yet not well known. He is a nobleman in every sense of the word, as has been indicated by his conduct towards the imprisoned ministers during the months of the siege. He constantly risked his life to defend them, and to send them provisions. He has been for years a member of the Tsungli Yamen. He is a man upon whom we may always depend for pro-foreign views, and yet a man whom all the Chinese love.

"He is not a genius. He is not a crank. He is not a man who does things which are talked about. He is not a man whom every foreigner wants to interview; he does not take extreme views. He is not sought by the Chinese or by foreigners to settle international disputes as Prince Kung and Li Hung Chang are sought.

"Prince Ch'ing always employs a foreign physician, which is one of the sure signs of progress in a Chinaman. There are those who send for the foreign physician in extreme cases; but men like Li Hung Chang, Chang Yin-huan and Prince Ch'ing employ him in all instances."

OCEAN RIVERS.

Running westward from the Rocky Mountains and finally emptying into the Pacific Ocean between the states of Washington and Oregon, is the great Columbia River. So strong is its broad-current that its fresh water is carried three miles out to sea before it becomes mixed with the salt water of the ocean. At that distance from shore the fresh water spreads out in the form of a fan-shaped pool two feet deep. If a bucket dropped into the pool is allowed to sink to a greater depth it will fill with salt water, though it may be dipped full of fresh water at the surface in the same place.

The fresh water current of the great Amazon River of South America extends 20 miles into the sea. The waters of the Gulf Stream and other warm rivers of the ocean are said to taste less of brine than the great seas through which they flow.

The shortest and surest way to live with honor in the world is to be in reality what we would appear to be; and if we observe, we shall find that all human virtues increase and strengthen themselves by the practice and experience of them.—Socrates.

IN A MODERN LAUNDRY.

Processes Through Which Sotted Collars Must Pass.

Although a penny pays for the laundrying of a collar few people who do not have something to do with the laundrying realize through how many processes that same collar goes before the penny is earned. In a laundry where nothing but collars, shirt waists and shirts are laundered the process is as follows:

The bundles brought to the counter on the ground floor of the establishment are taken to the top of the building, where they are untied and the different articles sorted out and marked, each person having his own mark, which is chosen according to the whim or the convenience of the marker. The collars are then sorted out, the colored collars going into one basket, the turn downs into another and the white stand up into a third. When the huge baskets are full each basket is emptied by itself into a revolving washer. This is a hollow cylinder perforated with augur holes. When set in motion it turns over one way through another cylinder containing water, and then turns back the other way. By this process the collars are washed, boiled, rinsed and blued, the water being changed four times while they are in the cylinder.

One girl attends three washers at a time. There are small dumb watches attached to each washer which she sets to tell her when she is to make the next change of water. When the collars are thoroughly washed, rinsed, boiled and blued, they are put into an extractor, which is set in motion, the water being extracted by means of centrifugal force. The collars are now taken from the extractor, straightened by hand and put through a machine, which dips them into starch, passes them between several rollers, and drops them upon a screen at the other end of the machine.

A girl in attendance here picks up the collars, lays them straight in piles and they are passed to a long marble-topped table where six girls sit. These girls rub the superfluous starch off the collars with cloths and lay them in smooth piles in shallow baskets. The baskets are taken to another end of the room, where a girl hangs the collars by the buttonholes onto hooks attached to long bars. When a bar is full, it is placed in a rack which will hold eight or ten bars and the rack is slid into the drying room. From the drying bars the collars are taken like chips into large baskets, the turn-down corners are sorted from the plain stand-ups and they are passed through a dampening machine. Then in great piles which contain from 500 to 800, they are placed in presses, where they stay from one hour to ten hours, as may be necessary.

It is a good thing to know that collars that are taken as far as the presses Saturday night remain in the presses till Monday morning. These collars not only do up more easily, but are much better to wear than those that have remained a less time in the presses.

After this there is the ironer, the polisher, the edger, and it is to this last little machine that the smooth edges of collars are due. Then comes the point-marker for turn-down points, and the dampening of the crease with a small wheel like a dressmaker's marker. The collar is then put into the shaper and comes out ready to wear.

Large baskets of the collars are taken to the sorters, who put them into piles according to the little marks upon them. Another person searches out the box which has the particular mark. The list of the articles with this mark and the person's name is attached to the box. A third person takes the garments out of the box, puts them in pasteboard boxes, and passes them to be done up in paper with the list outside. These boxes are taken to the ground floor, put into lettered boxes to await the call of the owner, and all this for a penny a collar.

GREAT BATTLES OF HISTORY.

Providence is Not Always on the Side of the Heaviest Battalions.

When Napoleon said "Providence is always on the side of the strongest battalions" he proved the falsity of his own precept in his last battlefield. It is not without interest to see how this applied in some of the world's great battles. At Marathon there were 200,000 Persians confronting 11,000 Greeks. The Persian army was routed and the invasion of Greece was ended.

Xerxes moved on Greece with his army of millions. Leonidas with his

immortals met them at Thermopylae and held the Persians in check, but not until the heroic Spartan and his followers were killed. Subsequently at Salamis Themistocles met the Persians in a naval battle. Xerxes watched the struggle from a distance and wept over the destruction of his army. Under Hezekiah Jerusalem was manacled by 85,000 Assyrians, who threatened to ruin the city. Not one Assyrian soldier saw Jerusalem. At Gaugamela, Alexander the Great, with 47,000 men fought 1,000,000 Persians under Darius. The Persians were routed and Darius assassinated by one of his satraps.

The siege of Jerusalem was the gloomiest event in the history of mankind. In A. D. 70 the temple of Herod was just completed. The Jews were never so haughty and so patriotic. They were never so disorganized. Innumerable factions divided them. But the feast of the Passover and the common danger enabled Vespasian and Titus to shut them up in the city. John and Simon, their partisan leaders, hated each other as cordially as they hated the Romans. When their followers were not fighting one another during the siege they were opposing the Romans. Vespasian and Titus cast trenches about the city, not one stone was left upon another of their beautiful temple, as the Savior predicted, and 1,100,000 Jews perished in that awful holocaust.

In the Russian campaign Napoleon lost 475,000 men. His legions melted and died under the falling snowflakes.

The naval battle of Lepanto between the Christians under Don John of Austria and the Turks was one of the fiercest contests of the middle ages. The Christians numbered 80,000 and the Turks 120,000 men. The Turkish fleet was destroyed, its commander killed and the Moslem naval power was crushed on the Mediterranean.

At Waterloo Wellington had 70,000 men and 159 cannon. Napoleon confronted him with 72,000 men and 240 cannon. Napoleon claimed he had Wellington in his grasp. But he was facing destiny. A rain storm of the night before wrought havoc with the movements of his artillery. Grouchy failed to come up. According to Victor Hugo, the sunken road of Oham ruined the charge of Napoleon's cavalry. When the night came Napoleon was a fugitive.

BUDDHA'S TOMB.

Prof. Rhys Davids has located the tomb of Baddah in the Himalayas. He found a pillar bearing an inscription written by Asoka about 253 B. C., recording the fact that the pillar marks the site of the garden where Buddha was born. It is in a region which is filled with relics and memorials of Buddha. The region is covered with small mounds which are Buddhist burial places. One of these mounds, which rises to a height of 21 feet above the plain, is 116 feet in diameter and has been excavated by Mr. W. Pepe and Prof. Davids. A number of interesting objects were discovered, including a steatite vase filled with small ornaments and beads. The tomb proper is a composition of solid brickwork. Down the center there is a curious pipe-like drain, the purpose of which is obscure. At a depth of 18 feet below the surface was found a large stone slab, which covered a stone chest in which were found three urns, a box of steatite and a crystal bowl. These objects were beautifully finished and presented all the appearance of glass. The urns contained ornaments in gold, gold beads, etc. Some of the gold leaf fragments bore figures of elephants. One of the vases is inscribed as follows: "This shrine for the relics of the Buddha, the August One, is that of the Sakyas, the brethren of the Distinguished One, in association with their sisters, and with their children and their wives." If this inscription is genuine, we undoubtedly have the remains of Buddha, and the bones found in the vases must have been taken from the funeral pyre at the incineration of his remains. The writing points to a more remote age than that of the pillars.

THE EVAPORATION OF GOLD.

Sir W. C. Roberts-Austen has proved, through an experiment extended over four years, that when a column of lead is allowed to rest upon a column of gold a slow diffusion, or evaporation, of the gold takes place, resulting in the appearance of traces of gold in the lead. When a degree of heat not sufficient to melt either of the metals is applied, the diffusion of the gold takes place more rapidly. The tendency of the particles is upward into the lead. As far as is yet known the evaporation of gold occurs only in the presence of another metal.

WAR OFFICE ON RIFLES.

Captured Arms Become the Property of the Queen.

Interrogated as to what becomes of arms taken from prisoners of war—say, the Boers—a responsible official at the War Office said:

"It depends entirely on circumstances and upon the decision the provost-marshal on the field may come to. A provost-marshal, you may like to know, is an officer, usually of the rank of captain, who is selected by the general to act as chief of the military police on the field, who are all soldiers, and his powers usually extend to two, or it may be in some cases three, divisions of an army.

"Well, then, that officer receives all prisoners of war, and when these are captured in fairly large numbers they are made to file past a certain given point, under guard, where each man lays down his arms.

"What becomes of the arms? In the majority of instances, perhaps, I may say generally in all instances, they are destroyed. The particular form of destruction rests with the pattern of the rifle. Some are broken in two like sticks, as the Martini for instance, while the newer sort are treated less brutally. Their breeches are picked.

"All arms taken from prisoners of war become at once the property of the Queen, and although there is no doubt that side-arms, and possibly many rifles too, and other weapons taken from the enemy, are kept by our men as trophies, yet the custom is opposed to official sanction, except where permission is given.

"Many of these trophies are kept by military authorities in some instances for distribution among technical museums. I am, however, quoting exceptions to the general rule.

"Captured arms are never at any time used by our own forces in the field. Every particular rifle has its own particular kind of bullet, and as the standard rifle of the British Army is the Lee-Metford, the bullet used for that weapon would not be practicable, for, say, the Mauser rifle of the Boer army.

"Do we ever sell captured rifles second-hand? No. The military authorities would never sanction that step for we might be selling such weapons to people who might in the near or distant future be directing them against us. Again, there arises the contingency—remote, but possible—if the Government undertook to sell captured rifles, of these falling into the hands of some Indian hill tribes, with whom we are at peace only at the point of the bayonet—the Afridis, for example; for, of course, none of the Great Powers would purchase second-hand captured rifles.

"The several thousand rifles taken from Cronje's army at his surrender at Paardeberg are safely deposited at Capetown, and not until the war is over will any definite decision be come to with respect to their fate. All may be destroyed.

"If rifle-clubs were established all over the country, as is suggested, for the purpose of making an ideal marksman of every willing Britisher, would the military authorities in these circumstances change the fate of captured rifles, and hand them over to such clubs for practising with? No, the Government would do no such thing. You must not forget that every type of rifle is captured in warfare, and if all and sundry were handed over to your rifle clubs it would tend to promote the wildest and gravest confusion, for, speaking generally, different rifles want different handling and different ammunition.

"I may tell you that if it were required and the necessity arose for War Office action in the matter, the military authorities are to-day in such a position as would enable them to put the British standard rifle into the hands of every available man in the country.

"Yes, there is always a certain amount of danger accompanying captured rifles. Just after the battle of Tama, Egypt 1884, for example, a man of the Camerons was busy breaking up some of the captured rifles on the field by smashing them on the wheel of a gun, when taking up one by the muzzle and wielding it against the gun, the rifle, which was loaded, went off, and killed the poor fellow. The usual way is to take a rifle by the butt-end, and then dash the weapon against a cannon wheel whenever such mode of procedure has to be carried out."

To be proud of learning is the greatest ignorance.—Jeremy Taylor.

He who commits injustice is ever made more wretched than he who suffers it.—Plato.