

SHIP THE MAINE.
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 ... has been astonished ...
 ... who has lent the Am-
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 ... as a hospital ship
 ... African war. The use
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 ... for hospital ser-

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 ... \$5,000 by the at-
 ... line, which operates
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 ... Baltimore. Short-
 ... declared Mr. Baker
 ... cablegram to the
 ... in London:—
 ... jesty's government
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 ... as hospital ship
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... accepts offer,
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TOMMY ATKINS' CLOTHES.

NOW HAS ONE UNIFORM FOR PEACE AND ONE FOR WAR.

He Doesn't Appear So Gorgeous When He Sees the Boer, Who Looks in Vain for a Red Coat Target.

Cable despatches from South Africa have noted that the Boers miss the red coats which they had found useful as targets and imagined inseparable from the British army. They did not know that, profiting by her many "little wars," England had learned to clothe her soldiers in keeping with the climate they have to bear and the work they are called upon to do. While all the pomp of peace is preserved for "Tommy Atkins" at home, because, he likes it for its display, despite its discomfort, the men in the field are rationally dressed in loose and easy khaki.

While the British army is dependent on voluntary enlistment, many of its leading officers have said that it must retain the finery which the private likes for its own gorgeousness and still more for the attraction it has when he goes a-courting. And so, although recent years have worked a colossal reform in the fighting clothes of the British soldier, uniforms of the old picturesque type are still preserved for purposes of duty and pageantry at home.

DISREGARDS DISCOMFORT.

Writing some ten years ago, Lord Walsley, advocating a differentiation between the uniforms of peace and war, said:—"We must make the soldiers' clothing acceptable to the men who have to wear it, and, strange to say they like very tightly fitting coats and trousers, to swagger about in with their sweethearts." And then he talks of their joy in the shelterless, "ridiculous forage caps stuck on the side of their heads."

Many a recruit has been gained for the British forces by their gay clothing, and although the more elaborate plumage involves a corresponding amount of preening, the smartness of the men's appearance is proverbial. Time was and not so very long ago, as the many know who have seen Lady Butler's wondrous war pictures, when British soldiers fought under the handicap of tight tunics and various impedimenta, such as no modern commander would for a moment tolerate. Take for instance her famous painting of "The Twenty-eighth at Quatre Bras," and compare the garb of the Gloucesters given there in the Crimea with the khaki in which they were captured recently by the Boers in the regiment's next turn of active service.

Even among the gay home uniforms those of the drum majors are proverbially the most gorgeous. With one of the finest military bands in the world at his heels, the drum major of the Coldstream Guards is especially resplendent. His regiment's record includes Egypt, Oudenarde, Malplaquet, Delingen, Lincelles, Talavera, Barrosa, the Peninsula, Waterloo, Alma, Inkerman, Sevastopol, Egypt, "Tel-el-Kebir and Suakin, '85, as the names in heavy gold letters on his baldric show. His tunic and trousers are of scarlet, the facings blue, and his braid of gold. The red plume worn in their gigantic bear skins is the principal mark of distinction between those uniforms and those of the Scots Guards, who have no plume.

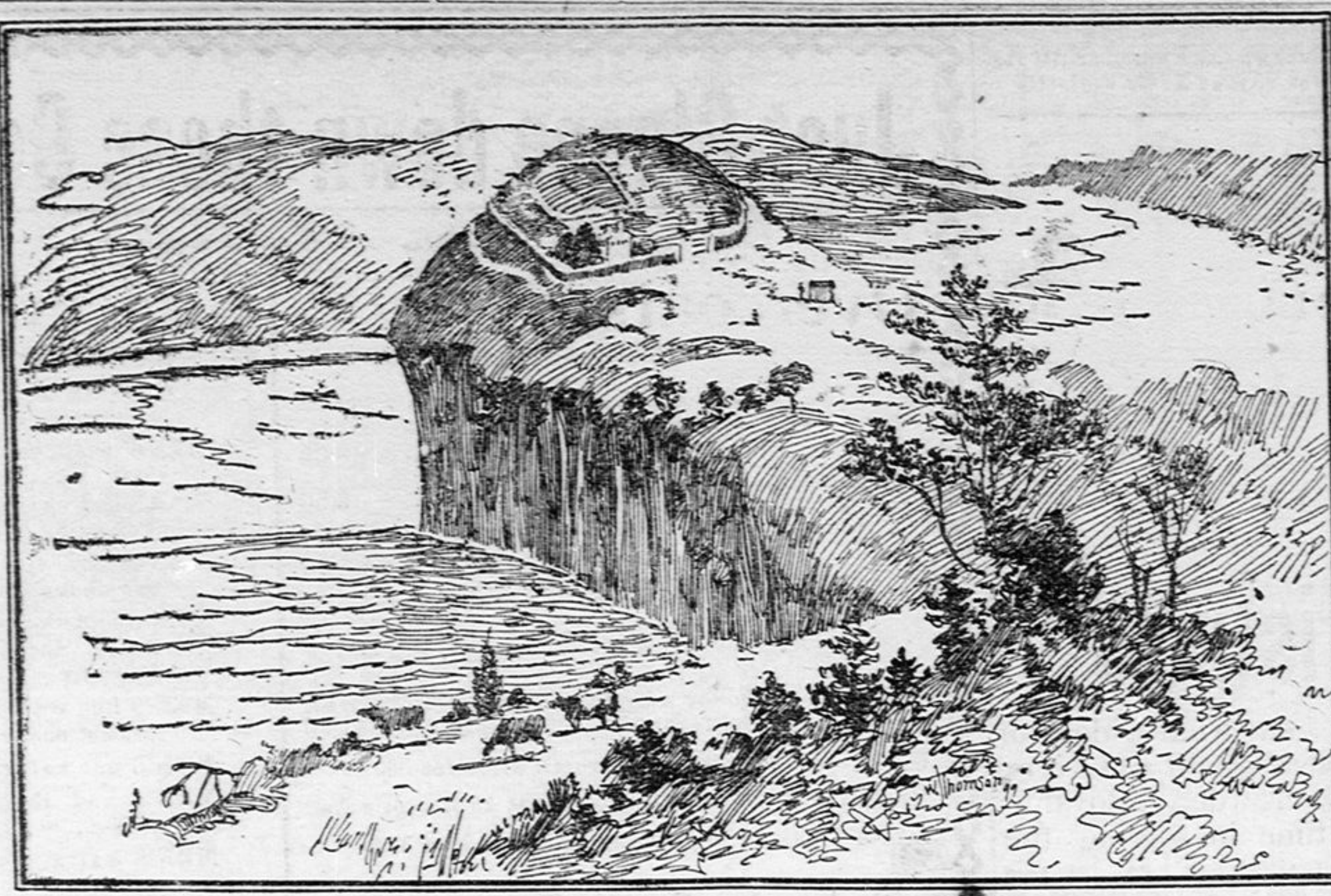
Next to a drum major there is hardly a more imposing sight of the kind than that which a piper of the Scots Guards presents. "Silver buckles are on his shoes," like pretty "Johnny Shufto," and there are silver "fixings" to his sporran, baldric, plaid, dirk, sword and his bonnet, with its eagle feather. The flaglike drapery on his pipes is of scarlet silk, with gold insignia. The ribbons on the pipes and the kilt are all of the tartan of the regiment, while the tunic is of scarlet.

ONE OF LONDON'S SIGHTS.

Every visitor in London has the Royal Horse Guards pointed out to him as one of the regular sights of the British metropolis. Fine men of their inches are they all, picked for their physique, and highly picturesque they look with their plumed helmets, cuirasses and high boots. Their popular name is "The Blues," their uniform being blue, with scarlet facings and red plumes. They wear immense pipeclayed gauntlets and highly polished black boots, with flare tops; their breeches also are white. Their helmets and cuirasses shine like burnished silver. But all this finery is put aside when they take the field, and they fight in khaki as do all the rest.

Quieter, but still rich, is the uniform of an officer of the Royal Horse Artillery. It is of blue, with scarlet facings. He wears a bushy bag with a white plume. His blue saddlet cloth is bound with gold braid and heavily embossed with the royal monogram, the insignia of his regiment, and its motto, which is "Everywhere." So, too, in his sabretache. The privates wear a less feathery plume and lack the gold braid of the officer, so that their appearance is more sober, but still martial, with the scarlet bags on their headgear and the scarlet facings on their background of dark blue.

Magnificent Indians, officered for the most part by Englishmen, compose the Ninth Bengal Lancers. The officers wear white helmets of pith, stiffened by wire. In "The Armies of To-Day," Lord Walsley says:—"We have lately done something to improve our style of soldier's dress, for no men tied up as ours are, in tightly fitting tunics, can do a satisfactory day's work during



A REMARKABLE BRITISH FORT ON THE TUGELA RIVER, EAST OF CAPTURED COLENZO.

This position of extraordinary strength is a relic of the time when the British were fighting the Zulus under Cetewayo. The Tugela River was the boundary line between Natal and Zululand. The fort has not yet been called into use in the present war, for the Boers have directed their attention to but one place on this river, Colenso, where the railway crosses the stream."

THE GERMAN SERVANTS ORDEAL.

The young person who fills so important a place in our domestic arrangements as housemaid, parlormaid, or "general" often enough takes a pride in her appearance, which, though entirely natural is sometimes irritating to the less reasonable type of mistress. What would she think if it were necessary for her, as it apparently is in Germany, before taking a place as domestic servant, to provide herself with a special passbook, in which full description of her appearance must be entered? This description of the German maid servant is entered by the police of her native district, and is sometimes dictated more by candor than chivalry. The color of the eyes and hair, and the shape of the nose, are all duly chronicled, and if the constable is of opinion that any of these features are "ugly" he has no hesitation in saying so. What possibilities such a system suggests! Imagine the young person about to start a career as cook presenting herself before the local constable to await his verdict on her nose and lips!

CHLOROFORM WON'T WORK.

It has been found that an apparatus for killing animals with chloroform in England would not work in India, because the high temperature prevented the concentration of the chloroform vapor. That this was the cause was proved by the fact that by placing ice in the box the animals were readily killed.

JOTTINGS ABOUT THE WAR.

ITEMS THAT WILL BE READ WITH MUCH INTEREST.

Incidents in Connection With the Troops From Britain—The Last English Persons to See Kruger.

The cost of living in Cape Town has risen 25 per cent. during the last fortnight.

All the soldiers who went out by the Kinfauns Castle were inoculated against typhoid on the voyage.

Some two hundred horses belonging to the Liverpool Corporation Tramway stud have been requisitioned for service by the War Office.

One of the new Colt automatic guns, capable of firing a minimum of 400 shots a minute, is due to arrive at Durban early this month.

The Orange Free State has commanded two resident English doctors, Messrs. Bidwell and Ramsbotham, to assist their Ambulance Corps.

The Coldstream Guards rejoice in the possession of four brothers with the appropriate name of Battle. All four left with that regiment for the front.

When the Durham Light Infantry left Aldershot, Lady Audrey Buller distributed paper and reading matter in every compartment of the train.

The Devonian Club has telegraphed to the commanding officer of the 1st Devonshire: "Every man, woman, and child of Devon is proud of you all. The 2nd are coming."

The Home Government is bearing the whole of the cost of the armed assistance which Rhodesia is rendering in the war, none of the expense falling on the Chartered Company.

The expression "plugged shell," which was contained in so many of the telegrams reporting the battle at Glencoe, is applied to shells which are not filled with any explosive.

Considerably over 600 women and children refugees from the Transvaal are in receipt of relief from the local Women's Fund at Cape Town, and refugees are still pouring into the town.

Messrs. N. M. Rothschild & Sons presented one thousand pipes, one thousand pouches and one thousand pounds of tobacco to the 1st Scots Guards, who left for South Africa on Saturday.

The joiners at Chatham dockyard have been warned that they will be required to work all night on transports which are being sent thither from Tilbury to be fitted up for immediate service.

Captain Penfold, who is one of the

managers of the De Boers mines, states that on the outbreak of the war there would probably have been in Kimberley 6,000 cattle and 200 tons of tinned rations.

The battle of Dundee began at day-break and lasted until midday. In the afternoon the London papers, 7,000 miles from the scene of the battle, were selling in the streets with a description of the fight.

There was no particular reason why Mr. Rhodes should have gone to Kimberley. In a letter written to a friend just before he started, however, he explained that he "had obeyed a resistless impulse."

Mr. Leslie, clerk to the Newcastle bench of magistrates, who elected to stay in the town when the Boers entered, has been arrested by them on the charge of having given information to the British.

Up to the present some £200,000 worth of Transvaal gold has been impounded by the British authorities at Cape Town and Durban. About £300,000 worth more is now on the sea, and will be seized on arrival.

When news of the victory at Elandslaagte reached Cape Town on Sunday the people were at church. They at once trooped out of church, and the special editions of the evening papers were all quickly bought up.

The last British visitor of President Kruger and President Steyn were Mr. Evelyn Cecil, M.P., and the Hon. Mrs. Evelyn Cecil, who have now arrived at Durban. They had interviews with the two Presidents on the eve of the declaration of war.

The King's Royal Rifles, who fought so splendidly at Dundee, have had previous experience of South Africa. As the old 6th they left some of their best and bravest in that corner of the country where they have again distinguished themselves.

A circular has been issued from Pretoria headed "Burghers, take care," warning the Boers in the field against the use of Mauser cartridges marked "N. F." or "D. M. Y. A." which "must be kept apart as, when used, they cause the guns to burst."

Mr. Arthur Fitzpatrick, a volunteer of the New South Wales Field Artillery, now in England, has been appointed a special service officer by the War Office. In recognition of the fact his Government have cabled him promotion to the rank of captain.

Two ladies who visited the Boer camp at Winsonton Station to intercede for their captured husbands were courteously received, and their request for their husbands' release granted. They reported on their arrival at Kimberley that they had been well treated.

A train carrying 20,000 sacks of flour, weighing 250 pounds each, which had been consigned by a colonial firm to the Transvaal, has been stopped by the authorities at De Ar Junction. The flour seized would have been enough to keep the whole Boer army for three months.

While the transport Malta, with the Coldstream Guards on board, was detained in the Solent by fog, the destroyer Fawn went out to her, and greatly gratified the troops on board by supplying them with newspapers containing the accounts of the battles at Glencoe and Elandslaagte.

As showing the keenness of spirit existing at Mafeking it is stated that two ladies, the wife and daughter of a railway employe, have absolutely refused to go into the women's laager, and as both are good shots, and have their own Lee-Metfords they are capable of taking care of themselves.

A troop of volunteers is being raised in London for service in the Transvaal. The corps will be self-supporting and not cost the Government anything. The minimum subscription for members is £150. The officers of the committee, who are making the arrangements are 231 Shaftesbury avenue.

Floriculture.

ABOUT THE DROUGHT.

A sudden stir among the maiden leaves,
 And little murmurs from the widowed grass,
 The hurried trumpet call of winds—the roll
 Of God's great drums across the echoing hills,
 And uniformed in gray, with glittering spears,
 The Regiment of Raindrops marches back,
 And all the world grows beautiful again.
 Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

MY WINDOW GARDEN.

At the rear of the entrance hall of my home is a small bay-window about four feet wide and eight feet long, writes Elizabeth Flint Wade. The window as an addition to the house, and the opening into it, is not, as is usually the case, the length of the window. It is three and one-half feet in width, just that of the original window of which this is an expansion, so the bay-window is in reality a tiny room by itself. I use it in winter for a miniature conservatory, and stock it with plants which best bear the uncertain temperature of a house. Last winter instead of filling it with blossoming plants, I devoted it almost entirely to "green things growing." Foliage plants, begonias and ferns formed the staple products, while every available bit of space suitable for such plants was used for vines.

I had some plants which are not usually cultivated indoors. In the autumn I went to the woods and brought home hepaticas, blood-root, bed-straw, wild geraniums and Jack-in-the-pulpit bulbs. These I potted and put them in the cellar for three or four weeks before attempting the process of acclimatizing them to a heated house. In a week or two after they were brought up and placed in the window they began to grow, and at Christmas time I had two pots of hepaticas in bloom. The blossoms were very large and of a deeper lavender tint than when they bloom out-of-doors. The blood-root did not respond so quickly. It grew very slowly and did not bloom until February. The bed-straw began to grow almost at once and crept here and there among the plants, attaching its sprays to whatever specimen took its fancy.

Perhaps the prettiest of these wood plants was the wild geranium, or Herb Robert. In this plant the leaves all start from a common center and form a rounded mass, the delicately cut foliage being of the most tender and bewitching green. These plants were grown in low pots, and served in turn all through the winter as floral center pieces for the dining table. The Jack-in-the-pulpit proved a fascinating addition to my collection. The "Little Minister" took very kindly to his new pastorate and in December sent up great, thrifty leaves and later appeared in full canonicals. It was especially interesting to watch the habits of growth of these wild plants. One so seldom sees them except in full maturity that it was a new experience to watch them from the beginning of their growth up to their full perfection.

Of vines I had Asparagus plumosus and Asparagus sprengeri, both of which plants demand the attention of the amateur. The latter plant grew with the most astonishing rapidity, some of the sprays reaching a length of over three yards. The fine foliage of this plant gives it a sort of misty appearance and when placed on a high bracket, it looks from a distance like a little green fountain, sending up jets of water which falls around it in colored spray. A passion vine made a beautiful screen across the top of the entrance of this little nook, and hung from the center of the ceiling was a basket from which depended yards and yards of the common Wandering Jew, of the most vivid green.

This window is heated from a register eight feet away across the hall, and the temperature was seldom above 70, and oftener at 65. When the mercury out-of-doors dropped below the zero I sometimes put a small oil stove—the tiny kind used for heating a basin of water—at the entrance and let it remain for an hour or two. I took care not to over-water the plants, but the soil was never allowed to become entirely dry. Florists often advise amateurs to let the earth in the pots get dry and then give it a thorough soaking. I have tried this method and have found that to treat plants in this way and have them grow successfully, they must be cultivated in the moist atmosphere of a green-house. It will never do for the dry, over-heated temperature of our living houses. The only fertilizer which I used was a small quantity of Jadoo liquid, perhaps half a dozen times during the winter. I had one or two plants each of geraniums, petunias, freesias, Johnsonii Lily, etc., which blossomed during the season, but it was the luxurious growth of the foliage of the plants which did not bloom that gave me most delight, and I would advise anyone who loves plants and who does not have success with blossoming plants to try those which promise nothing but leaves.

DOUBLE-FLOWERED CHERRIES.

Double-flowered cherries are among our handsomest flowering shrubs or small trees, the weeping forms being particularly graceful. A new variety which received a first-class certificate from the Royal Horticultural society at London exhibition last May is named James-H. Veitch; the flowers are unusually large, very double, and bright pink in color; the plants bloom while they are very small, so that this shrub is likely to be grown in pots by florists.



SAMPLE GROUP OF BOER MARKSMEN.