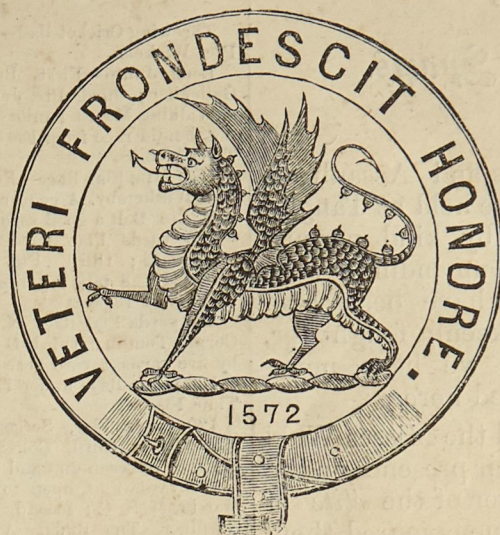


THE DRAGON.

225

EAST KENT



CHRONICLE

A PAPER FOR THE MEN OF THE BUFFS.

No. 1

SINGAPORE, NOVEMBER 1st, 1886.

[Price 10 cents

To Our Readers.

IN the year 1878, owing to the Battalion being ordered home from India, "*The Dragon*" was discontinued; but the Editor has much pleasure in announcing to his numerous friends and subscribers that "*The Dragon*" has again revived, and with the support it has hitherto received from them, he hopes to be able to issue a copy on the 1st of each month at the small cost of 10 cents.

A SOMEWHAT weary and belated traveller was wandering on the heights of Bukit Timah—the shades of evening were falling, the sun was rapidly retreating in the west! The traveller paused, his footsteps were arrested, he stood entranced with the beauty of the scene. Suddenly he became aware of a stirring, a rustling among the leaves. An indescribable feeling of awe came over him. C-r-r-ash! The thunder rolled—the lighting flashed—its vivid glare shot across the horizon; the storm demon and his legions were abroad! All nature seemed convulsed. High aloft between two giant

clouds there appeared a wondrous form to the half-paralyzed gaze of the traveller—it was the mighty "*Dragon*" of The Buffs! Darting fire from his nostrils and lashing his sides with his tail, he gave a roar heard above the thunder, and from his mighty throat went forth the word "*Resurgam*"! The traveller fell with his face to the earth; when he came round the storm had passed away, and the moon was shining brightly from the dark blue vault of heaven.

Yes, it would appear from this awful manifestation, that the proud old Dragon sniffs the battle from afar, and proclaims his right to make his voice heard once again after seven years of *otium cum dignitate*. Perhaps, with his more than mortal instincts, he sees with prophetic eye, at no distant future, the tattered banners triumphant on the breeze, and The Buffs covered with gore and glory, on some well fought and hardly won field of victory in Central Asia.

Veteri Frondescit Honore.

MUSKETRY.—During the month of October, owing to the rifle-range being under repair, no shooting could take place.

The Buffs' *Annual Athletic Sports.*

THE annual Athletic Sports and Assault-at-Arms of The Buffs, which were held at Tanglin on the 18th and 19th instant, by kind permission of Colonel Blacksley, Commanding, were the best contested sports that have been held for years. Every event was keenly fought for, and a finer body of athletes we have never seen in any Regiment stationed here.

Sir Fredk., Lady Weld, and the Misses Weld honored the assembly with their presence on the second day, also a large number of the *élite* of Singapore was present. Fortune favoured them with fine weather after rather a dull morning, and consequently the ladies brightened the meeting by appearing in very pretty and gay costumes. The magnificent Band of the Regiment was present, and contributed greatly to the pleasure of the spectators and performers. The hospitality of the officers was as usual highly appreciated, and the Sports wound up with a quiet little dance given by the Sergeants, which was kept up until an early hour on Wednesday morning. The usual "Aunt Sally" suffered a great deal of knocking about, and caused considerable amusement as was evidenced by the uproarious laughter every time she was hit.

A word of praise is also due to the able and efficient manner in which the Stewards, Starter, Umpires, and Clerks of the Course carried out their various duties, their decisions never having been questioned. The prizes were kindly distributed by Mrs. Reeves.

There were several events open to the Garrison, and we were sorry to see so few entries but trust that more will be made at the next meeting, which will probably be given by the Royal Artillery.

The following officers took charge of the arrangements on both days.

Stewards—Colonel J. Blacksley, Major C. E. Reeves, Major N. Newnham Davis.

Starter—Quarter Master J. W. Coombes.

Umpires—Lieut. R. E. Philips, Qr-Mr-Sergt. H. C. Cumber, Color Sergeant J. Bennell.

Clerks of the Course—Lieut. and Adj. R. Bayard, Sergt-Major J. W. Cook.

FIRST DAY'S PROGRAMME.

Throwing Cricket Ball—First, Pte. Wardle (94 yards 2 feet); second, Pte. Wickens.

Long Jump—First, Pte. Walker (17 feet 5 inches); second, Pte. Gallagher; third, Pte. James.

Walking Match 1 mile—First, Pte. Cullen; second, Pte. Maynard. A splendid race from the beginning, Cullen winning easily by 20 yards. Time 10mins.

Half Mile Flat Race—First, Corpl. Watkins; second, Pte. Bell; third, Pte. Wethersby. A good race, Corpl. Watkins, having it all his own way. Pte. Bell a good second. Won by 2 yards. Time 2 mins. 30 secs.

120 yards Flat Race, Privates—First, Pte. Dyke; second, Pte. Woodward; third, Pte. Gardiner. Dyke made the running and breasted the tape 2 yards in front of Woodward with Gardiner close up. Time 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ secs.

200 yards Flat Race, N.-C. Officers—First, Corpl. Reynolds; second, Corpl. Tomlin; third, Corpl. Watkins. Corpl. Reynolds won easily by five yards, a yard between 2nd and 3rd. Time 22secs.

100 yards Boys under 17—First, Boy Davies; second, Boy Cooper. Time 13secs.

120 yards Flat, Sergeants—First, Sergt. Talbot; second, Sergt. McFarlane; third, Col.-Sergt. Gardiner. Won by 2 yards; same distance between 2nd and 3rd. Time 14secs.

100 yards Flat, open to Garrison, Navy and Police—First, Corpl. Martin, M. S. C.; second, Corpl. Reynolds, The Buffs; third, Pte. Gardiner, The Buffs. A capital race between Martin and Reynolds. Martin winning by about a yard and a half, 5 yards between second and third. Time 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ secs.

Bayonet v. Bayonet—First, Corpl. Eaton; second, Sergt. McFarlane.

Bayonet v. Sword—First, Drmr. Bailey; second, Corpl. Eaton.

120 yards Flat, Corporals—First, Corpl. Reynolds; second, Corpl. Alexander; third, Corpl. Tomlin. Won easily by five yards; two yards divided second and third. Time 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ secs.

100 yards Flat, Regiment—First, Cpl. Reynolds; second, Pte. Dyke third, Pte. Gardiner. Corpl. Reynolds was the last off the scratch, but won a good race on the tape. Not a yard between the first three men. Time 11secs.

Teams of Bayonet Exercise—First, A Company; second, C Company.

Tug-of-war, Regiment—First, E Company; second, H Company, Pulled through a ditch of water. Won by E Company after a very severe pull.

1 mile Flat Race, Regiment—First, Corpl. Watkins and Pte. Wethersby dead heat; second, Pte. Wilson. A good race won by two yards. Time 5 mins. 30secs.

SECOND DAY.

Polo Jump—First, Pte. Evans (8 ft. 2in.); second, Pte. Perry.

120 yards Flat, Old soldiers—First, Corpl. Fisher; second, Col.-Sergt. Bennell; third, Pte. Paton. Won easily by two yards; five yards between 2nd and 3rd.

$\frac{1}{4}$ Mile open to Regiment—First, Corpl. Reynolds; second, Corpl. Watkins; third, Pte. Gardiner. Won easily by two yards; four yards between 2nd and 3rd. Time 56secs.

120 yards Marching Order Race—First, Pte. Dyke; second, Pte. Davis; third, Pte. Stanton. Won easily by 2 yards, a foot between 2nd and 3rd.

Putting 24lb. Shot—First, Pte. Leake (28 ft. 8 in.); second, Corpl. Eaton.

High Jump—First, Boy Wilson (4 ft. 9 in.); second, Corpl. Alexander.

Fencing—First, Corpl. Eaton; second, Col.-Sergt. Bennell.

120 yards Hurdles 10 flights—First, Pte. Gardiner; second, Pte. Gallagher; third, Pte. Walker. Good race, Gardiner winning easily.

Tilting at the ring—First, Pte. Wardle; second, Sergt. McFarlane. A very amusing incident. A bucket full of water is placed on a horizontal bar with a board fastened to the bottom, a hole being made through the board. One man drives another in a wheelbarrow, who endeavours to put a lance through the hole; and if he fails the bucket turns over, with the result that both men are wetted through.

$\frac{1}{4}$ Mile open to Garrison—1st, Corpl. Reynolds, second, Corpl. Watkins; third, Pte. Gardiner. Corpl. Reynolds made the running from the commencement of the race, and running very strong to the finish won by 10 yards, 5 yards separating 2nd and 3rd. Time 51secs.

Single Sticks—First, Corpl. Eaton; second, Drmr. Bailey.

Sack Race, 80 yards—First, Pte. Hallett; second, Drmr. Cooper.

Sparring—First, Corpl. Scott; second, Sergt. McFarlane.

Tug-of-war, open—First, The Buffs.

Obstacle Race, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile—First, Corpl. Watkins; second, Pte. Hallett; third, Corpl. Alexander. Hallett led by 10 yards until coming to the last obstacle, a pond, when he got stuck in the mud, and Corpl. Watkins passed, winning easily.

Consolation Race, 220 yards—First, Pte. Baker; second, Pte. Cheeseman; third, Pte. Lane. Baker made the running from the start and won easily by two yards; a yard between 2nd and 3rd.

Tug-of-war, Officers and Staff Sergeants v. Sergeants—Best of three pulls.—The Sergeants winning on the third try, all, with one or two exceptions having been pulled through the ditch. The wary Sergeants who did not go through were treated to a ducking by their comrades in a muddy pond afterward, which caused a great deal of amusement.

Officers' Obstacle Race.—First, Lieut Bayard; second, Lieut Pemberton; third, Lieut Hunter. A very amusing race; it consisted of jumping hurdles, drinking soda and whiskey going through coloured sacks, putting on a mask and cocked hat, riding a chair twenty yards, trundling a hoop, and through a pond.

EXTRA EVENT.

Colonel Blaksley, the gallant commander of The Buffs, gave a Silver Watch for the best soldier within 10lbs of 11 stone either way, in the following series of events, viz:—

Putting a 24lb shot
250 yards flat race
Sparring with gloves

This prize was won by Corporal Reynolds, who is really a first-rate all around athlete, and deserved great praise; he also having won as many events as he was allowed, by the regimental rules during the meeting, his time for all his events being very good.

Corporal Watkins also is a very good runner, but unfortunately was too light to compete in the above event.

Corporal Martin gave an exhibition race of 100 yards against time on Tuesday. He had two men to make the running for him, and succeeded in cutting the tape in 10 and three-fifths secs, timed by three watches. This was slightly over his performance in the Garrison 100 yards run on Monday.—*Straits Times*.

THE CHILDREN'S SPORTS.

By kind permission of Colonel Blaksley, the sports for the School children, under the able management of Schoolmaster and Mrs. Whittle came off on Saturday, October 16th, upon the Recreation Ground and by the laughter and happy faces of the little ones they seemed to thoroughly enjoy themselves, and also enjoyed the good cake, sweets, &c., so kindly provided by the Colonel. The various races resulted as follows:—

100 yards Handicap for all School Children—First, Charles Cumber; second, Herbert Cumber; third, Arthur Orr.

100 yards Skipping Race for Girls—First, Charlotte Green; second, Charlotte Cumber; third, Jane Green.

Skipping Competition—First, Cecelia Cumber; second, Jane Green; third, Charlotte Cumber.

200 yards for Band and Drmr. Boys attending School—First Drmr. Davis; second Band Boy Featherston; third Drmr. Cooper.

100 yards Quadruped Race—Handicap all Boys. First, Herbert Cumber; second, Arthur Orr; third, Robert Cook. A very amusing race, the boys having to run on all fours, some of them getting very many falls during the course, one little chap turning right round and running back to the starting post.

Hop, Step and a Jump—First, Herbert Cumber; second, A. Orr.

The proceedings wound up by Mrs. Reeves

kindly distributing the prizes, and the little ones giving three cheers for Colonel Blaksley and officers, Mrs. Reeves and ladies, and Schoolmaster and Mrs. Whittle.

GENERAL'S INSPECTION.

H E Major-General W. G. Gameron, C. B., Commanding China, Hong-Kong and the Straits Settlements, inspected the Battalion on 24th, 25th, 27th, and 29th of September last, and it was one of the minutest inspections that they have had for years. He very frequently expressed his approbation at the manner in which the outdoor work was performed in his presence, and, at the conclusion of his last parade, congratulated the Battalion on the highly satisfactory state he found them in, expressing a hope that when called upon to do their duty in Central Asia it would be done as efficiently and willingly as the theoretical part had been done before him.

THE latest General Order from the Salvation Army is published for information:—

1. 9. 86—It having been brought to the notice of the Staff Council of the Salvation Army, that Lieutenants expected head-quarters to consent to their courting and engagements, and that instead of trying to qualify themselves for captains, their thoughts and attentions were directed to their sweet-hearts they have just issued the following stringent order.

"That in future no sanction will be given to courting or any engagement of any male lieutenant. He must get promoted to the rank of captain before anything of the kind can be recognised. No captain is to expect head-quarters consent to his marriage either after two years service or more, unless he has proved himself an efficient and successful officer, and is backed by his divisional officer, who, in consenting to his marriage, must agree to give him three stations. In future, no marriage will be agreed to by head-quarters unless we have consented to the engagement at least 12 months before. The old rules remain in force, that there must be at least 12 months' service in the field as a commissioned officer before any engagement can be sanctioned. Communications with regard to engagements must be made to the divisional officers, who will refer the matter to head-quarters."

BIRTHS.

GREEN.—29th October, 1886, the wife of Pioneer Sergeant J. Green, of a daughter.

DEATHS.

SIMPSON.—19th October, 1886, Corpl. C. Simpson, of Pneumonia.

THE MAILS.

THE mails for the United Kingdom are expected to leave as follows —

Monday, November 1st by P & O.
 " " 9th by M M.
 " " 15th by P & O.
 " " 22nd by M M.
 " " 29th by P. & O.

The mails for the United Kingdom are expected to arrive as follows:—

Wednesday, November 3rd. by M M.
 Thursday, November 11th, by P. & O.
 Wednesday, November 17th, by M M.
 Thursday, November 25th, by P. & O.
 Parcels by Post are only carried on the P. & O boats.

OUR TEMPERANCE LEAGUE.

We are glad to see our Total Abstinence Society getting on so well, and under such good supervision as Corporal Burrows hope to see it flourish more so.

At present there are 42 enrolled members eight of whom joined in the past month, who pay an entrance fee of 10 cents and a monthly subscription of 20 cents. They have a very nice little bungalow where meetings are held monthly, and where the members can pass their spare evenings away, reading the latest news from home in a variety of papers, or playing indoor games, &c. All are invited by the President to join Refreshments, such as lemonade &c. can be purchased at a very small cost. At present they have a balance in hand of \$18, which is very creditable to its committee of management, and we hope, on the arrival of the Battalion in India, to see the society prosper as well, if not better, than here.

RAJA BROOKE.

Many of our readers must have noticed the portrait of the celebrated Raja Brooke on numerous coins at present in circulation in Singapore. We have not space to give a detailed account of the old chief, but possibly a short sketch of his life may not be uninteresting.

James Brooke was the son of a Bengal civilian and at the age of sixteen received a commission in the army of *John Company*, but a protracted illness, caused by a wound received in the first Burmese war, compelled him, after a short time, to retire into civil life. During the next five years our hero led a most restless speculative career. As Dryden says of Buckingham—

"A man so various that he seemed to be
 Not one, but all mankind's epitome,
 Stiff in opinions, always in the wrong,
 Was everything by starts and nothing long;
 But in the course of one revolving moon,
 Was Chymist, Fiddler, St. tesman and Buffoon;
 Then all for women, rhyming, drinking,
 And a thousand freaks, that died in thinking."

However, when the fickle goddess appeared to have forsaken him altogether, his father died and left him the comfortable fortune of £30,000. Brooke immediately invested in a yacht, and at the close of 1838 started for Borneo with the fixed intention of counteracting the Dutch policy in the Eastern Archipelago, civilising the natives and extending British influence. In 1839 he landed at the capital of Sarawak, and by his tact of pluck, induced the Raja, y'clept Muda Hassim, to hand over to him his government and powers. Brooke's philanthropy was now put to a severe test, and it did not, we are afraid, come scathless through the ordeal. There is little doubt he aspired to the suppression of robebrony and slavery, but at the same time he had in his mind's eye the formation of an absolute monarchy. He ultimately succeeded in both his objects, and the story of how the petty monarch spent his revenue of £6,000, how he drew up his code of law and even invented a romance in these matter of fact days. In 1846, Lubuan, of which Borneo is a dependency, was annexed by the English Government, and

Brooke, now in the full tide of his prosperity, went home to find himself an object of universal admiration. He was received at Windsor, made a K.C.B., freedoms of cities were hurled at his head, every learned society and club claimed him as a member; in short, for a brief period he was lionised by peers and commons. Brooke returned to the East surfeited with applause and flattery and a royal commission in his pocket. But, alas, the many-headed is fickle in its favours! A speculating gentleman called Wise, sent letters home telling tales of rapine and cruelty. Hume and Cobden poured forth floods of eloquence in the House of Commons inveigling against the unprincipled adventurer, and poor Brooke lost his title of Consul General.

Misfortunes never come singly. Worse than the rabid attacks of local editors, and the invectives of philanthropic members of Parliament, was an insurrection of the Chinese gold diggers, and the unlucky Raja was driven an outcast into the jungles. By dint of wonderful feats, Brooke partially recovered his former position, but his day was over, and he returned home in 1858. The remainder of his career is rather sad. The old chief was struck with paralysis, and although he sufficiently recovered to visit again the scenes of his former triumphs, the fire and energy of his character had all but disappeared. Finally Brooke settled in Devonshire, where he enjoyed a quiet domestic life until, in June 1868, he gently passed away.

SERGEANTS' QUADRILLE PARTY.

The Warrant and Non-commissioned Officers, members of the Sergeants' Mess, gave a Quadrille Party on the 15th October, which was held in the large room next to the mess.

The Commandant and Mrs Ryan honored the party with their presence, and also several ladies and officers of the Battalion. Dancing was kept up with great vigour until 4 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Sergeant Major made a very good MC. Sergt. Dray and Color-Sergt. Gardner deserve a word of praise for the decorations which were very tastefully done.

Correspondence.

To The Editor of The Dragon.

Sir,

Having seen in the *Straits Times* of the 25th ultimo, that Pte Cullen of "A" Co credits himself with walking one mile in 7 mins. 15 secs. I am quite willing to make a small bet (say \$5) that he cannot walk over exactly the same course in eight minutes on any day he likes. Should he be willing to take up this bet I would like to hear from him.

A. H. BAKER.

A NEW INVENTION.

To The Editor of the Dragon.

Sir,

Through the medium of your paper I wish to make it known to the troops in garrison generally, that I have in my possession a new invention in the shape of a model of a cartridge for the better defence or use of Her Majesty's soldiers in the time of war, combining powder and dynamite. My argument for this invention is why should not dynamite be used in time of war, in the shape of my invention with good effect, and I guarantee that a few shots well directed, would soon despatch a detached party of twenty or thirty men, or put them into such confusion as to compel them to retire from their position. Should any person deem it necessary to push on this invention or assist me to push it on to the proper authorities, I should be greatly obliged for such assistance. I do not give any of the principals of this invention, and as I claim the original of it, I claim the right of not allowing anyone to know my principals, on which I have founded my invention, without first receiving a written agreement that no one will be allowed to make any spurious imitation of my originality. These cartridges can be used both for Martini-Henry and Enfield rifles, and the same application can be applied for cannon shots.

Pte JORDAN WELLS.

Act. Bandsman, The Buffs.

(It is very pleasing to his many friends to know that Pte. Wells is engaged in perfecting so expeditious a method of disposing of his enemies. EDITOR.)

Regimental Items.

No. 1474, Pte. G Collins appointed Pioneer, 11th October.

Lieut. C. K Greene, granted leave of absence on private affairs from 15th October 1886 to 14th October 1887.

Lieut. A. L Bell granted leave of absence in extension on medical certificate, from 8th Sept. 1886 to 25th December, 1886.

No. 314, Corpl. G. Eaton awarded 2nd class certificate of Gymnastics.

Captain J. Hughes granted leave of absence on medical certificate for six months from date of embarkation.

Lieut. Greene embarked on *S. S Glengarry* on the 15th inst. for England.

Sergt. A. Buck transferred to Corps of Military Staff Clerks, with the rank of Color-Sergt., from May 7th, 1886.

Lieut. D A. Hamilton embarked on *S. S. Saghalien* on the 23rd inst. for Hong-Kong to join garrison class.

The undermentioned amounts have been deposited in or withdrawn from the Regimental Savings Bank during the month of October.

| | Deposits | | | Withdrawals | | |
|-----------|----------|----|----|-------------|-----|------------------|
| | £ | s. | d. | £ | s. | d. |
| A Company | 20 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 10 | 0 |
| B " | 34 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ |
| C " | 15 | 10 | 0 | 14 | 10 | 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| D " | 32 | 18 | 0 | 6 | 13 | 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| E " | 19 | 15 | 0 | 4 | 15 | 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| F " | 12 | 3 | 0 | 9 | 10 | 0 |
| G " | 21 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 8 | 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| H " | 12 | 15 | 0 | ... | ... | ... |
| Total | 168 | 16 | 0 | 52 | 8 | 0 $\frac{3}{4}$ |

The undermentioned men are entitled to Good Conduct Pay from the dates specified:—

At One Penny.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Pte. E. Jordan, | 6th August. |
| " J. Hall, | 11th " |
| " W. Tebboth, | 26th September. |
| Drmr. C. Mephram, | 13th October. |
| Pte. H. Blackwell, | 1st " |
| " W. Westley, | 1st " |
| " J. Cook, | 2nd " |
| " C. Anderson, | 2nd " |
| " J. Collett, | 2nd " |
| " W. Russell, | 2nd " |
| " W. Havill, | 8th " |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Pte. G. Hardinge, | 11th October |
| " A. Goddard, | 7th " |
| " A. Golder, | 11th " |
| " W. Jones, | 13th " |
| " C. Williams, | 13th " |
| " J. Blockley, | 15th " |
| " C. Eggleston, | 16th " |
| " W. Cox, | 16th " |
| " A. Wardle, | 16th " |
| " A. Sadler, | 16th " |
| " G. Smyth, | 17th " |
| " E. Hoghan, | 17th " |
| " R. Price, | 18th " |
| " G. Bryan, | 18th " |
| " G. Cowley, | 20th " |
| " C. Haydon, | 20th " |
| " C. West, | 21st " |
| " C. Rows, | 21st " |
| " J. Caffery, | 21st " |
| " J. Hall, | 28rd " |
| " J. Chembion, | 30th " |
| " A. Reed, | 30th " |

At Twopence.

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| " J. Carey, | 3rd " |
| " R. Scott, | 3rd " |
| " G. Klackner, | 21st " |

At Threepence.

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| " H. Whitnell, | 5th " |
|----------------|-------|

A Board of Examination for Non-commissioned officers for promotion was held at Tanglin on the 28th and 29th ult.; about 36 men were examined in drill &c., and the name of the successful candidates are as follows:—

For Color Sergeant.

Sergt. W. Lishman.

For Sergeant.

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Lee-Sergt. W. Webster | Corporal G. Tester |
| Corporal R. Watson | C. Woodward |
| B. Gates | C. Cook |
| G. Eaton | J. Buckley |
| T. Cheal | C. Peters |
| C. Martin | R. J. Parsons |
| E. Keeler | H. J. Pay |
| W. Hunt | |

For Corporal.

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Lce-Corpl. W. Hyatt | Lce-Corpl. J. Alexander |
| H. Halford | W. Cox |
| J. Benabo | T. Greenland |
| C. Perry | W. Donnelly |
| W. H. Smith | T. Higgins |
| S. Thorne | J. Tomlin |
| G. Cork | J. Reynolds |
| F. Staunton | R. Price |
| J. F. Strike | G. Scott |
| C. Burrows | |

We hear from good authority that the amateurs of our detachment at Penang are going to give a dramatic entertainment shortly, and we hope it will be as successful as those that have taken place here.

No definite news has at present been received about our conjectured move to India, but we except shortly to be able to give our readers some reliable information on this subject.

Dramatic Notes.

THE members of the Sergeants Dramatic Club gave a musical and dramatic performance on the 4th and 5th of October, and by the crowded houses, the frequent burst of applause and repeated encores, I should say was highly appreciated.

The first part of the programme consisted of a concert, to the success of which Mrs. Birmingham, by her brilliant pianoforte solos and good singing, contributed not a little. Lieut. Greene seemed an immense favourite with the audience and was repeatedly encored. Sergt. Dray was also very good and makes up well, and is no doubt a good support to the club. Col. Blaksley gave in his usual grand style "My Wife's Cousin." "The Moorish Maiden," and Mr. Buzfuz from *Pickwick* in his eloquent appeal to the Jury on behalf of Mrs. Bardle. We are afraid that this will be our gallant Colonel's last appearance on the stage of The Buffs, as, according to the wretched system now prevailing, he will shortly have to retire.

The next part of the programme was "Naval Engagements," and a greater hit has not been made on the boards since our arrival here. Sergt Dray as Admiral Kingston was all that could be desired; Mrs. Whittle was also a most decided success as Mrs. Pontifex; the love-making between all parties, viz. Lieut. Kingston (Sergt Talbot) and Miss Mortimer (Mrs. Buck), and Admiral Kingston and Mrs. Pontifex, was first-class and really very amusing, and nothing could exceed the great astonishment of Dennis (P.M.S. Wilson) and Short (Sergt. McFarlane) when they beheld the tender embraces betwixt the couples towards the end of the piece. A word of praise is due to Sergts Wilson and McFarlane for the able way they took their parts. One word of advice is to speak up, so as to give the "Gods" a chance of hearing, as at present the folk behind are rather in the cold, and can only conjecture by the actions of the performers what is going on. The next performance we hear is coming off early in December, when we expect a treat.

SOME HINTS TO OUR HISTRIONS.

THE very earnest way in which the Sergeants and two of our companies have set to work to amuse themselves and us by play-acting, must plead my excuse for trying to point out to them a few of their faults, and the way to correct

them. Before I go any further, I must warn off anybody who is not interested in matters theatrical from reading this article, for there is nothing more deadly dull to people who have not been bitten by stage fever than theatrical talk.

To plunge into my subject at once. A good many of our actors do not seem quite at home in the management of their arms and hands. A low comedian or character actor generally has something given him by the author to occupy his hands, but the noble hero or the flippant light comedian has nothing in particular to do with his arms except to keep the audience from noticing how very uncomfortable he is in the possession of those members. If you can forget on the stage that Heaven has given you forelegs as well as hind ones, so much the better, but, if you cannot think out carefully your movements throughout, and, above all things, don't hold your hands in front of you as if you were carrying a tray. Put your hands in your pockets, behind your back, let them hang by your side, occupy them with a stick, a watch chain, a hat, a pair of gloves, a handkerchief; any movement which you feel to be natural and unconstrained; and if you can beg or borrow a big looking-glass try the effect before it.

"Business" is just as important as the words of a piece. The first thing a professional does when he gets his part given him is to think out the action before he begins to learn his words, and the more business you can introduce, without interfering with the course of the plot the better.

Making up is a very important part of the proceedings. Many a good actor spoils the effect of his part by a careless make up. Nobody, man or woman, can afford to go on the stage without their war paint on. If they do the effect is that they look as if they were suffering from jaundice. Different shades of toilet rouge can always be bought, but if ever there is difficulty in obtaining it, jewellers' rouge or ruddle make good substitutes. Ladies should remember to keep the rouge high up on their cheeks, otherwise they look as if they were suffering from a swollen face. The French actresses bring their rouge right up on to the forehead. An old man's wrinkles should not be painted black, but a mixture of indian red and indian ink. Be careful that the hair on your face suits the part you are playing. To give an instance. In "Naval Engagements" the Admiral should either have been clean shaved or have worn a

beard As it was, he looked more like a Commissariat Officer in his best clothes than anything else. A make up box and a little two shilling book called "How to make Up" are necessities to every company. I have always found the best make up boxes are those sold at a guinea by Fox of Russell Street, Covent Garden.

Dont try and make every sentence tell. Play the conversational parts conversationally, and then, when you come to impressive parts, the contrast gives them added weight. If you have been giving all the emphasis you can to a drawing-room conversation, you have no reserve power to pull out when it comes to the heavy father's course, or the hero's defiance of the villain, or the leading lady's appeal to Heaven. Besides, it wearies the audience. Above all things be letter perfect in your part; for if there is one man more than another who is the bane of a stage-manager's life, and who brings evil words to his lips, it is the light hearted and confident histrion who carries his part in his hand at the last rehearsal, but is quite certain that he will be all right on the night—*An Old Hand.*

Cricket.

Captains of Cricket Clubs are requested to send accounts of all matches to the Editor, and they will be published if space admits. Forms for entering matches on can be obtained from the Regimental Press at 20 cents per dozen.

Shooting Matches will also be reported if the full scores are forwarded.

THERE have been no Cricket Matches played during the month of October.

The Battalion Challenge Shield for Cricket has arrived; it is a fine work of art, and will look highly ornamental, with a red cloth background, on the wall of the Mess or Company which may have the luck to win it.

The teams that have to play off for this splendid shield are as follows:—

Sergeants, "E," and "G" Companies.

The Sergeants and "E" Co. will play as soon as the ground is at all safe to play on. The winners will then have to play "G" Co., but whether here or at Penang, is at present undecided.

Varieties.

A spinster lady in Glasgow, was once asked to assist in getting some men for the Volunteers; she replied "ho't mon; fer forty twa years are been trying to get a mon for myself, and as a no can do that, a'll be donned if a'll get a mon for any person else."

A Hibernian had sworn i court that a certain horse was fourteen feet high, and when he, afterwards, in cross-examination, said that the animal wa fourteen hands high, his former statement was pointed out to him; he exclaimed "did I say that now, then faith I'll stick to it, begorra! your worship! he was fourteen feet high."

DOUBLE ACROSTIC.

Time honoured corps, for centuries, the name,
Recalled to England glorious deeds of fame,
But now Red Tape's most ruthless fingers,
Commands new name tho' still the old one lingers.

LIGHTS.

1. An article to which you'll plainly see,
My "primal light" will give an easy key.
2. A cry of exultation English to the core,
Heard midst our scenes of pleasure, or in the battles' roar.
3. To every other regiment you will hope with me,
The soldiers of our corps, this "light" will ever be,
4. One finds the other, as I've always heard,
You'd choose the latter, if you'd but take my word.
5. With varied feelings by a soldier done,
In English home or neath a sultry sun.
6. Bravely before this "light" we all are told to stand,
But I think I would feel braver behind a bag of sand.
7. This is a service we cannot do at home,
And to fulfil it, we abroad must roam.
8. The service now, like whist, has been curtailed,
Tho' wiser men have oft against it railed.

E. W. B

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