

THE LIFE OF A PRIVATE SOLDIER IN TIMES OF PEACE.*

BY ONE WHO HAS SERVED IN THE RANKS. (IN TWO CHAPTERS.)

CHAPTER THE FIRST
THE YOUNG RECRUIT.

IN giving a description of a soldier's life, the first thing to do is to show how a lad can most easily join the army, with least trouble to himself, and with the least danger of becoming mixed up with bad characters and making bad friends at the start of his military career. The present time is very

opportune in this respect, as great and beneficial alterations have quite recently been made in the methods of enlisting. And here it must be stated that our remarks refer especially to infantry soldiers; although life in barracks is much the same for all branches of the Service as regards style of living and general arrangements. The details of work are of course very different, and the pay varies according to the work to be done; but as there are about five times as many recruits for the infantry as there are for any other branch of the Service, it is thought better to refer in general to the most numerous class.

According to the old system of recruiting, smart-looking soldiers were stationed in the principal towns to pick up or entice lads to join their regiments; this plan of recruiting is indeed still carried on, and is sufficiently well known by the general public to require no further explanation here. But, in addition to that, the following system has been started. In every town and village in the United Kingdom that is of sufficient importance to own a post-office, may be found all the necessary information as regards enlisting. Any lad who takes it into his mind that he would like to "go soldiering" has merely to ask at the nearest post-office, and he will be given first of all a paper setting forth the advantages the army has to offer, and the conditions of the Service in which he thinks of engaging himself. This he can take home with him, and, after due deliberation, he can if he thinks fit pay another visit to the post-office, and there receive a form of "Application to Enlist." This paper, which may be filled in either by the recruit or by the postmaster, must state the exact height and age of the recruit, and whether he wishes to serve in cavalry, artillery, or infantry, and then it will be sent to the officer in the district who has charge of the recruiting. In due course the

applicant will have to appear at the *dépôt* of his county, and if he satisfies the authorities as regards his health, strength, and physical powers he will be immediately enlisted as a soldier. The whole of England is divided for military purposes into a number of districts, which comprise one or more counties, or part of a county, or perhaps some large town, and to each of these districts some regiment is assigned, which takes its name and draws its recruits from that special locality, so that every portion of the United Kingdom has some regiment with which it is closely allied. In the majority of cases it may be assumed that the recruit would join the regiment that belongs to his own county, and bears its name, for he will probably meet there chiefly men of his own district; but if he have a preference for another regiment, or for any reason (best known to himself) he should wish to live away from his own county, there will be nothing to prevent his stating on his application paper that he wants to serve in some other corps.

By this beneficial reform many advantages will accrue to the intending recruit. In the first place, there will be no possibility of a lad being enticed into the army on false pretences; he will have ample opportunity of studying at leisure the terms of the service, and of talking it over with his friends; and he will escape the evils of loitering about the public-houses with the recruiting-sergeant, and of being thrown into the society of other recruits (perhaps of low character) at the outset of his career; for he will go straight from his home to the *dépôt* of the regiment.

There will be also another advantage in this system, both to the army itself and to the respectable recruit—that whereas in former days the recruiting-sergeants had to trust chiefly to picking up lads idling about in low parts of towns, or possibly were forced to use all sorts of arguments, and to make exaggerated statements, to get men at all: now a very large field is open, and no village, however quiet, but will have a chance of sending some spirited youth to join in the service of his country. There is another method of enlisting which may be briefly mentioned; for it is, perhaps, the most convenient for any one who can afford it. Supposing a young man to have decided definitely that he wishes to join some particular regiment, let him go straight to the head-quarters or the *dépôt* of that regiment at his own expense, and then asking at the barrack-gate for the recruiting-officer, let him then and there apply to be enlisted. The main advantage of this plan is that it avoids the risk of being kept about for other recruits, or being in any way mixed up with them, until merged in the full tide of barrack life.

It will be apparent, therefore, that under the new regulations enlistment will be in the strictest sense of

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the words "purely voluntary;" but even after the act of enlistment has taken place, and after the recruit has pledged himself to serve in the army for a definite number of years, there is still an opportunity allowed him for leaving the Service, in case he finds on a closer acquaintance with its duties that he has mistaken his vocation. For any time during the first three months after his enlistment a recruit can *claim* his discharge and return to his home, provided he or his friends will refund the money that has been spent on his outfit and on his food, &c.; the sum demanded on this score being fixed at present at £10. Even after the first three months there will be the possibility of purchasing a discharge, but it will then be looked on as an indulgence, and a larger sum of money will be demanded; for it is very desirable when once a man has been thoroughly trained, and become a reliable soldier, that he should stay on and finish his engagement. It is obvious that the commencement of the service in the ranks will be the least pleasant, and therefore it is to be hoped that all recruits will make up their minds within the time allowed whether they wish to serve or not.

All the conditions of enlistment and terms of service are stated very plainly in the paper which has been referred to before ("The Advantages of the Army") and which can be had at any post-office.

The principal requirements by the army authorities are that all recruits must be between nineteen and twenty-five years old, and must be at least 5 feet 4 inches in height, and measure 34 inches round the chest.

The ordinary length of service that a recruit must expect to go through is seven years with a regiment, and another year extra if his regiment happens to be out of England when the seven years are over. On the other hand, if the regiment is serving at home, a soldier *may* be allowed to leave before that time if the Service admit of it.

When the recruit has reached the place appointed by the recruiting-officer, he will have to satisfy a doctor as to his health and fitness for a soldier's life, and afterwards he will be formally attested, and have to take the oath of obedience to the Queen, and sign a declaration, from which time he becomes legally bound as a soldier.

When first a lad puts in his appearance in the barracks he is almost sure to feel very strange, and perhaps also rather shy. For the first time in his life probably he will really be a conspicuous object by *not* having on a red coat—and he will certainly long for the time when his uniform will be served out to him—but that will very likely not be done for three or four days, or a week; because before anything is given to him from the army stores, it must be marked with a number to show whom it belongs to. It will be a good plan, therefore, if the recruit takes a few little things with him from home, just to make him comfortable for the first week in barracks—namely, a brush and comb and a bit of soap, and a razor if necessary, an extra shirt, and pair of socks, and a handkerchief or two. It will be no good at all to take extra boots or cloth

clothes, because they could not be worn when once the uniform is served out; and, in fact, the clothes he goes in will most likely have to be sold, because a soldier being well supplied with all necessary clothing cannot carry about with him anything else. Also a small supply of needles and thread, and a knife and fork, may be found a convenience, although they could probably be borrowed from some other soldier.

It will be as well also to put the recruit on his guard against being too friendly with his companions just at first—*i.e.*, until he has had time to form some sort of opinion as to their character; because there are sure to be in every regiment some soldiers who will try to make a profit for themselves, by their kindness to the recruit, and will try either to sell him something which they will tell him he will want, or will ask him to lend them a few shillings, or most likely of all try and make him pay for some beer at the canteen. All these events may be to a great extent avoided if the recruit keeps pretty well to himself at starting—but he must at the same time keep his eyes open, and watch everything that goes on in the barrack-room, for the sooner he can get into the habits of the regiment, the more comfortable he will be; and there are lots of little things to be done in some particular way, which can only be learnt by noticing how others do them. Soldiers are very good in helping one another, and so a recruit need never mind asking an older companion to show him the right way to do such things as folding up the bed-clothes, keeping his uniform clean, or making his own part of the room look tidy. Some other things will take a long time to learn to do nicely and quickly, and these can be mastered much better by frequently noticing how older soldiers do them.

It will be as well to mention here what may be a great consolation to some young men thinking of enlisting, namely, that soldiers hardly ever interfere with one another or force their company on any one who shows that he wants to be by himself. Provided a man does his fair share of the general work of keeping the room clean and tidy, and does his duty in other ways without grumbling, he can keep as much to himself and be as quiet as he likes. It would be a bad thing for any soldier, wherever he came from, to give himself airs and think himself too good to mix with his comrades, but it is quite easy to be friendly enough with them and yet to stay quietly in barracks reading or writing, or even to go out for a walk alone instead of joining in the more jovial parties that most soldiers enjoy.

And now perhaps the intending recruit would like to know what his new home will be like; for he must consider that the barrack-room *will* be his home, for a few years, and he may find it a very comfortable home too, if he will but try and suit himself to his new circumstances. All barrack-rooms are very much alike, and have accommodation for about fourteen to twenty soldiers. The rooms are high, with large windows and plenty of light, the walls white-washed, and wooden floors. In the middle of the room is a long table large enough for all the men to sit down to

at once. Over the table is generally a hanging shelf on which plates and basins are kept, pepper-pots, mustard-pots, salt, and the day's supply of bread.

The beds are arranged all round the room with their heads against the walls, and about four feet or so between them. By each bed there is a rack for a rifle to stand, and immediately over the head of the bed three large hooks on which are kept the knapsacks, great-coats, belts, and bayonets. Above this again runs an iron shelf, and every man uses that part of the shelf nearest to his bed, and keeps there his spare clothes, and boots, helmet, and any books he has with him. A piece of the wall is also at his disposal, so that if he likes he can hang up any small pictures or photographs.

In every room there is also a supply of brooms, mops, and brushes, for keeping it clean and tidy, some large tin cans, and dishes, and a large coal-box, which is always well supplied in winter, so that a good fire can be kept burning all day.

Every soldier has a good straw mattress and pillow, two sheets and two blankets, and a coloured rug or counterpane, with an extra blanket in very cold weather. All the bedding is changed and washed at regular intervals, but the soldier has not to pay for it.

After dark there is a good supply of gas, which is turned off at 10.15 p.m., when all the men are supposed to be in bed.

So much for the room in which a soldier has to live, and which he can call his own, for sleeping, eating, and keeping his things in. But there are many other buildings in the barracks which he will use besides. There is a big room for washing, with a liberal supply of basins and water; and close by some big baths, with hot and cold water laid on. Then there is the kitchen where all the meals are prepared; no cooking being allowed in the barrack-rooms, but the soldiers taking it in turns to serve in the kitchen for a month at a time. The canteen is also somewhere handy; it is a shop where all sorts of things are sold to soldiers very cheap, such as groceries, butter, cheese, and bacon, &c. Besides this general shop, there is almost always a tailor's and a shoemaker's shop, in which a soldier can learn the trade, or work in it and make some extra money if he is a good workman.

The school must not be forgotten. Here a soldier can study as much as he likes in the evenings, in addition to certain hours which are compulsory until he can pass a simple examination.

There is also in every barrack a recreation-room, where newspapers can be seen, books read or borrowed, and a good supply of games, such as draughts, bagatelle, &c. Thus it will be seen that every arrangement is made for the soldier's comfort, and wherever he goes he will find the same state of things, and it may be safely said that hardly in any place where young men live in ordinary employments can they have so many conveniences so easily within reach, and with so little to pay for the use of them, as they will find in barracks.

Soldiers are provided with three meals a day, and

the greater part of the food is supplied to them gratis. The hours of the meals are—breakfast about 7.45 a.m., dinner at 1 p.m., and tea at 4.30 p.m. Every day all soldiers are given $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of beef or mutton, and 1 lb. of good fresh bread. There is no charge of any sort made for this, and it is entirely extra to their daily pay. The bread is given out in 4 lb. loaves, so that the usual custom is for four men to share a loaf, unless any one prefers to have his portion separate. The meat is given out in joints as nearly as possible according to the number of men in one room; so if there were sixteen men in a room, they would probably get a joint of about 10 lbs. and the exact weight made up by smaller pieces.

Besides this bread and meat, which is called a "free ration," every soldier is obliged to spend about 2½d. or 3d. a day out of his pay for groceries—i.e., for tea, coffee, sugar, milk, vegetables, and some extra bread.

Thus the actual food that is placed before a soldier every day of his life is the following:—At breakfast, a pound of bread, and a large basin of coffee with sugar and milk. At dinner, the meat served out that morning, either stewed, baked, or boiled, or perhaps a thick soup, with plenty of potatoes. At tea, a basin of tea with milk and sugar, and the extra bread bought with the groceries.

If a soldier likes to spend a penny or two besides, he can go to the canteen and buy some butter, cheese, or bacon, to help down the dry bread at breakfast and tea. If he wants a little supper before going to bed, he can go either to the canteen, or to the recreation-room for coffee, and it is quite likely that there may be some bread or perhaps a bit of meat left from dinner. If any one happens to be away from barracks at meal-time his portion is carefully put by for him; or if his duty keeps him away all day, he would be able to take it with him, or his dinner would be sent out to him. Another proof of the interest taken in the soldier's welfare may be quoted, viz., that if a very early drill was ordered, or if any men had to leave barracks much before breakfast-time, they would be given a basin of hot coffee in addition to their regular allowance, without having to pay for it.

Within a few days of enlisting the recruit will probably be gladdened by the sight of his outfit; and although it will very likely give him a good bit of trouble just at first to get the buttons bright, and the straps and belts nice and clean, yet it will be a certain amount of comfort to feel that he is dressed like all those around him, and it is to be hoped he will feel proud of the uniform that marks him as a patriotic servant of his Queen and country; and he may be assured that if he never disgraces his uniform, it will never disgrace him. The outfit, or "kit," given to the recruit when he enlists comprises the following articles:—

A cloth tunic, and a serge tunic; one or two pairs of trousers; a helmet, and glengarry cap; two pairs of boots; two or three coarse flannel shirts; two or three pairs of worsted socks; a pair of thick gloves; a pair of braces; knife, fork, and spoon; razor and shaving-brush, a comb, clothes-brush, boot-brushes and black-

ing, and some little things for cleaning up brass buttons, belts, and accoutrements.

All the smaller articles of kit have to be kept in order, or renewed if worn out, at the soldier's expense, but the more expensive clothes are given to him fresh at regular intervals. Thus he has a new tunic, and one or two pairs of trousers, and two pairs of boots, every year, and it will be only carelessness or great misfortune if the soldier does not make them last the proper time.

In addition to the "kit" mentioned above, of course all soldiers are supplied with the needful implements of war: rifle and bayonet, pouches for ammunition, a knapsack, &c., and those very useful articles of

clothing in an English climate, which have not been mentioned before—a pair of gaiters, and a big great-coat.

The only other thing to notice here is that if a soldier has to replace any of his outfit, he must get it from the stores of the regiment, and the value of it is deducted from his pay—not necessarily all at once, but a little at a time, so that he may feel the expense as slightly as possible. But as this stoppage of pay for new clothes is one of the most fruitful causes of evil, continually leading men even to desert from the army, the recruit cannot be too strongly urged to take the greatest possible care, so as to avoid what really is a considerable hardship.

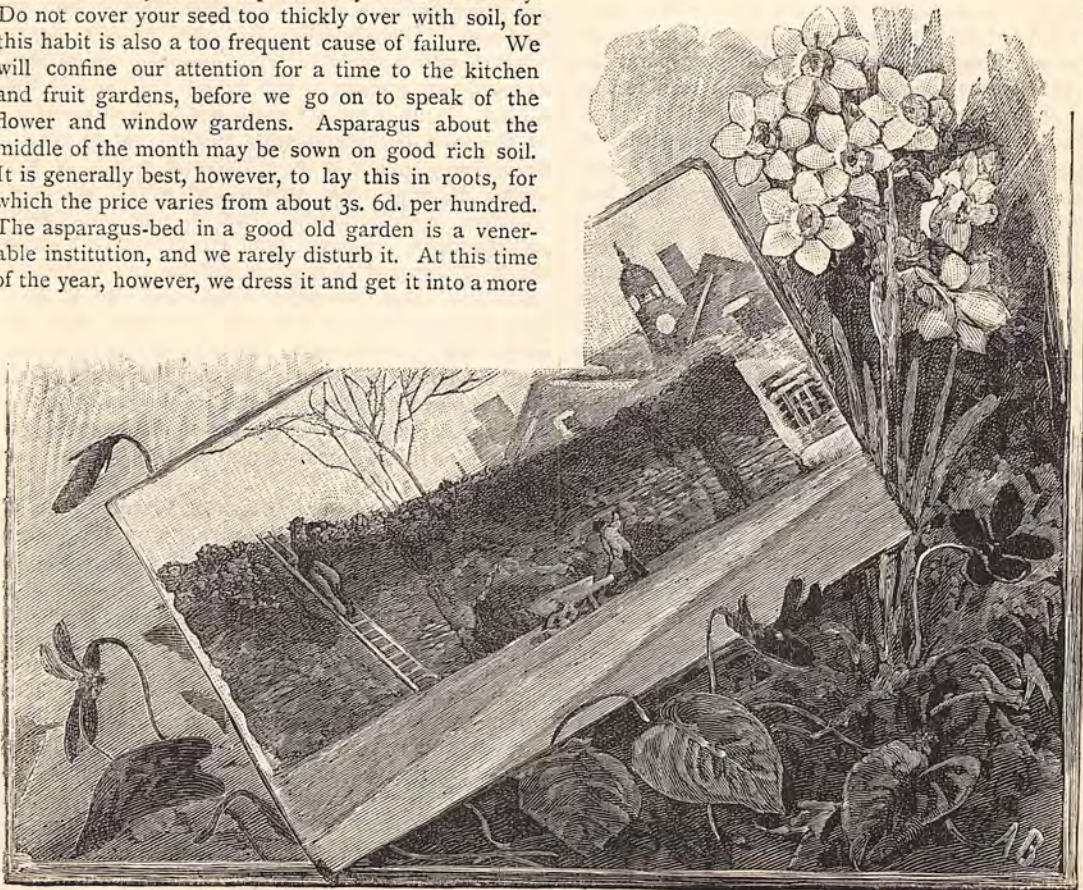
GARDENING IN MARCH.

SINCE the beginning of the year, we have been busy, whenever the state of the weather or of the soil admitted of it, in working well upon our land to get it into a condition good enough—friable, as we call it—for the introduction of seed.

Now that the time has come to sow the seeds, care must be taken that they are not sown in wet and cold weather, or they will in all probability fail and rot away. Do not cover your seed too thickly over with soil, for this habit is also a too frequent cause of failure. We will confine our attention for a time to the kitchen and fruit gardens, before we go on to speak of the flower and window gardens. Asparagus about the middle of the month may be sown on good rich soil. It is generally best, however, to lay this in roots, for which the price varies from about 3s. 6d. per hundred. The asparagus-bed in a good old garden is a venerable institution, and we rarely disturb it. At this time of the year, however, we dress it and get it into a more

marked and defined shape, for the tendency and action of the winter weather is generally to level it a little with the rest of the beds.

Our important potato crop is got in this month; and begin with those of your seedlings which show a disposition to sprout. They like a dry and but



danger or death whether on the battle-field or in the peaceful walks of industry. But the pitmen of the North have lately exhibited qualities which are much less common. The manliness with which they have borne themselves during the pelting storms of adversity which have assailed them for the last few years has shown the stuff of which they are made. While cynics were still sneering at their alleged thriftlessness and extravagance, a sudden and severe depression of trade set in. When one reduction of wage followed another in quick succession—when several large collieries were wholly stopped, and hundreds of miners were thrown out of employment—when the miners who were still working were doing so little that they were almost as badly off as those entirely out of work—even then these men maintained a gallant struggle for independence, and, when times were at the worst, scarcely any perceptible increase took place in the poor-rate in the mining districts of the North. This chapter in the history of the miners of Northumberland and Durham—one of the grandest in the annals of labour—has never been fully told. In this terrible crisis the miners held firmly together. Those of them who were employed, though often working but half-time and earning very low wages, voluntarily taxed themselves to help their less fortunate comrades who were out of work altogether. Scarcely less than £100,000 were paid in this way by the miners of Durham and Northumberland in three

or four of the worst years. This large sum was distributed through their respective Trade Unions; it was purely voluntary and spontaneous, not paid in fulfilment of any obligation imposed upon the miners by the rules of their societies.

For many years the miners of Northumberland have, through their Trade Union, subscribed regularly to the Newcastle Infirmary, to the Whitley Convalescent Home, and to other medical charities of the North of England. They have continued these subscriptions throughout the depression of trade.

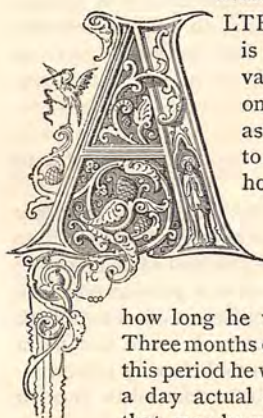
While thus exercising the virtue of self-help, they have ever been ready to assist others. They subscribed liberally to the French peasants when reduced to destitution by the Franco-German war; they sent large donations to the agricultural labourers, and to the British seamen, and they contributed for several years to the funds of the National Education League.

The famous steam-coal of Northumberland is being fast worked out. It is thought by some that its palmiest days are over. Opinions differ, even among experts, as to the length of time that this coal-field may continue. One thing, however, is certain—the world will always need courage and enterprise, independence and generosity, and the other manly qualities with which these coal-diggers are so richly endowed—and, wherever they or their descendants may go, they will be a blessing and a source of well-being to the community among whom they dwell.

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WORK AND PAY.

LTHOUGH the work of soldiers is subject to a great deal of variation (as will be shown later on), yet, when first a lad joins as a recruit, nothing is allowed to interfere with his regular hours of learning drill, and the sooner he can get over this part of his duty the better for him. It will depend upon his natural quickness how long he will be kept at "recruit drill." Three months ought to be enough, and during this period he will most likely have four hours a day actual drill with the other recruits that may be up at the same time. Besides learning drill, and how to use a rifle, a recruit is also instructed at these times how to keep his things clean

and smart, how to pack and carry his knapsack, and how to fold and carry his great-coat. All these things will take some time to learn to do quickly, and the recruit must have patience, and not mind asking his comrades to give him a helping hand occasionally.

The recruit will also have to attend school until he can pass a simple examination in reading, writing, and arithmetic; and he will also have to go to a gymnasium, where he will be practised at jumping, climbing, and other active exercises. This course may be pleasant or the reverse, according to the natural ability or taste of each individual.

Throughout the time that a recruit is learning his drill, he is interfered with as little as possible, and is kept on steadily day after day with the same work, and with a fair amount of attention he ought to get over it (as said before) in about three months, and be ready to take his place in the ranks with the older soldiers.

From this time onward (*i.e.*, after he has finished his recruit drill, and also been properly instructed in using the rifle) the soldier will have a great number of different employments. Some of them come as part of the daily duty, being taken in regular rotation by all private soldiers; others are only to be obtained by intelligent and deserving men, and, being posts of

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special responsibility, carry with them extra pay and privileges.

The first case to take shall be that of an ordinary soldier, leading the life that the majority have to lead. As regards hours of mere drill, he will have a decidedly easier time of it than he had as a recruit. There will be a short parade before breakfast, perhaps for half an hour; the chief parade of the day goes on from 10 to 11, and there may be another at 2 p.m., which will certainly be over by 3 at latest. Supposing after that the soldier likes to clean up his things for the next day, he can have done his work by 4 p.m., and he is then at liberty to go out and amuse himself where and how he pleases until 9 or 9.30 p.m.; or, if he prefers it, he can leave barracks directly after the afternoon parade is over, which may be at 2.30 or 3 p.m. This may assuredly be termed a very easy day's work—and a private soldier can make sure of enjoying many of them—but they will be broken into with very great regularity by what is called "guard work." This is, in fact, the most important work a soldier has to do, and in many respects the most trying and the most tedious. The duty lasts for twenty-four hours at a time, generally beginning at 10 in the morning, lasting on all day and through the night, until 10 a.m. next day. The turn comes round to every soldier about once a week, more or less, according to the number of men in the regiment available for the duty. The chief work that the men have to do, when on this "guard duty," is to look after public buildings, and places where guns or gunpowder are kept; and for this purpose they have to walk up and down, or round the buildings they are in charge of, as may be seen any day in any town where soldiers are living. One man keeps on at this for two hours, then another takes his place and stays for two hours also, and then a third man does the same—after that the first goes on again; so that every man has alternately two hours' walking about and four hours' sitting still, all through a day and a night. After the man has done his turn of two hours' walking about, or, as it is called, "being on sentry," he goes back to a room called the "guard-room" to wait until his next turn, and while there he can read, write, lie down and take a nap, or get his meals; but he is not allowed to take off any of his clothes, not even his boots, so that he may be ready at a moment's notice in case he should be wanted for anything. It can be easily understood, then, that a soldier who has been "on guard" for twenty-four hours is very glad to get back to barracks, and to feel that it can't be his turn again for a week or more.

Some mention may now be made of the other class of employments which fall to the lot of only steady and intelligent soldiers, but there are a great many such posts open to them for competition, provided they are well up to their regular work of drill, &c.

In every regiment there will be nearly thirty servants required for the officers, or grooms for the officers' horses; also waiters in the officers' mess, in the sergeants' mess, and in the canteen. In the school there will be wanted one or two assistant teachers;

and two or three men to do clerks' work in different offices. Then employment may be found in the regimental workshops for several hands—viz., tailors, shoemakers, painters, carpenters, &c. In all these capacities a soldier can either learn the trade, or practise what he knows already.

In every garrison town there are also many soldiers filling posts which are well worth trying for. Such, for instance, as clerks at the military offices, telegraph clerks, messengers, attendants at libraries, and even gardeners. In addition to these employments it frequently happens that the military authorities require men for carrying on some large work, such as road-making, or erecting buildings, and when thus employed soldiers are always given pay, according to the nature of the work, varying from 4d. to 1s. a day, extra to their usual pay. In all the instances mentioned above, soldiers are able to add considerably to their ordinary pay; the officers' servants, for instance, about 10s. a month, and all at rates varying from 3d. to 1s. a day.

The regimental band gives also an excellent opening to any lad with a musical turn of mind. As a rule, those who wish to take up music as a profession in the army would have to enlist when between fourteen and sixteen years of age; but it is quite possible for a lad to enlist as an ordinary recruit at the ordinary age, and after he has learnt his drill to take a place in the band.

The great advantage of the army as a school for a musical lad is that he is, even *while learning* his instrument, given pay, board and lodging, and clothing—in other words, he lives in barracks just like other soldiers. Now supposing him to have got on fairly well, and to have mastered the instrument he plays in the band, he ought at once to get to work at some other one, say a violin, or a more uncommon instrument; he will then have a double chance of getting engagements "to play out"—*i.e.*, to help at concerts and other entertainments. For in some garrison towns a good military band, or at any rate some members of it, would be able to get as many engagements as they could avail themselves of, and would be well paid for their services, of course entirely extra to their military pay.

Besides this, the future of the bandsman is pretty well provided for. In one case he might like to stick to his regiment, earning his extra pay, and by re-engaging for twenty-one years' service, claim a pension on which to retire; or if he possessed sufficient education, both general and musical, he might work up to become a bandmaster, who ranks very little below an officer.

The regimental school has been referred to once or twice, and it will be as well to mention the advantages the army has to offer in this respect.

Supposing a lad at the time of his enlistment to be entirely without education, he must attend the school regularly until he can pass an examination in the four simple rules of arithmetic, and can read easy English, and write enough to sign his name. Happily, now-a-days, there are few boys unable to do this, and therefore they would at once take the certificate, and

escape compulsory attendance at school. But if the recruit has any intention of "bettering himself" and of obtaining any of the good positions the army has to offer, he ought without delay to work up for and pass the examinations of the higher standards. The examination for a first-class comprises the whole of arithmetic, together with some higher branch of mathematics, or a foreign language, history and geography, &c., together with the power of being able to read and write fluently difficult passages of English. A private soldier may sometimes be found who from the mere love of self-improvement studies one subject after another, and thus makes a practical use of these opportunities. For it must be remembered that a soldier can use the school to his heart's content, without paying a penny for the privilege; and facility is given by means of evening classes to enable the men to avail themselves of it. And, happily, it is a fact that soldiers as a class are becoming much better educated; the change of late years being very marked. Official documents show this plainly, for whereas, twenty years ago, only about 7 men in every 100 could boast of a fairly good education, in 1880 as many as 58 in every 100 were returned as possessing "superior education." It seems to be a very prevalent opinion that barrack-rooms are always full of noisy soldiers, and many persons would no doubt laugh at the idea of a man being able to sit there of an evening to read quietly, or to study school work. The true state of the case may very well be given here, as it is likely to be a real comfort to any steady young man who thinks of enlisting. In the first place, then (as mentioned before), private soldiers continually finish their day's work by 3 or 4 p.m., and the natural consequence of this is that the great majority of them leave barracks early in the afternoon, or at any rate after tea, and do not come back again until about 9 p.m. And for those who do not care to go into the town, or have no money in their pockets to spend there, the recreation-room provided in the barracks is always a great attraction. It continually happens, then, that for two or three hours in the evening the barrack-room is nearly deserted, and if any men are there, they are either privates preparing for some duty next day, or dozing on their beds after a night on guard, or perhaps a sergeant struggling with his papers and books. In any case the room is quite quiet, and it is a grand opportunity for the soldier bent on self-improvement to set to at his studies; and, unless he is in constant need of the schoolmaster's help, he can probably make the best use of his time by staying in his own room. But whether working for an examination or not, the fact of being able to get a few hours of peace in the barrack-room has been an unexpected crumb of comfort to many a well-intentioned soldier; and therefore it has been thought advisable to draw attention to it.

The details of pay of all the different ranks and branches of the army are so clearly shown in the official paper headed "Advantages of the Army," already alluded to, that it will be altogether unnecessary to go over that ground again here. But it may be useful to take one or two cases, and by giving as

nearly as possible the necessary expenditure, and taking into account the extras he receives, to see what sort of position a soldier has, and what are his opportunities for saving money.

The lowest rate of pay is 1s. a day, and, although that sounds absurdly small, let us see what the soldier has to do with it. In the first place, he has a good lodging found him, with plenty of bedding, lights, and firing, therefore there is no expense on that score. As regards food, he gets every day a pound of bread, and either one pound or three-quarters of a pound of beef or mutton, so the heaviest part of his "board" is found for him also; but there is some slight expense for extras, to be mentioned presently. The main part of his clothing is also supplied gratis, viz., the cloth clothes, boots, &c., and the soldier need incur no expense on that head; but the smaller details of clothing—*i.e.*, shirts and stockings, &c.—have to be maintained and paid for by him after the first issue has been worn out; it being borne in mind that the first issue of clothing is made complete and without charge, except a small sum for having the various articles marked.

The chief necessities of life being thus provided, there only remain some small items of compulsory expenditure. The groceries used for breakfast and tea, and the vegetables for dinner, are paid for by the soldier at the rate of 3d. a day, and the washing of clothes at $\frac{1}{2}$ d. a day, making a total of 2s. 0 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per week. Beer is to be got cheap and good at the canteen, and if a man drinks his quart a day that will come to 2s. 4d. a week. Deducting these two amounts from the pay of 7s. a week, there remains about 2s. 6d. a week for what may be termed "pocket-money," out of which, of course, a soldier can easily provide himself with tobacco, extras in the form of butter or cheese at his meals, and still leave a few coppers in hand.

This case has been taken as the very worst possible, but probably bears a good comparison with what many men have to put up with in ordinary life, as the soldier is clothed, fed, and housed better than his civilian brother. And, moreover, the soldier has what is called "Deferred Pay" accumulating all the time at the rate of £3 a year, which will be given to him whenever he leaves the army.

By a simple calculation it would appear that the allowances of bread and meat, lodging and firing, clothing and boots, which all soldiers receive gratis, could not be obtained for less than 8s. 6d. a week; therefore this amount ought to be imagined as added in every case to the soldier's actual cash payments.

But it will be as well now to take the case of a soldier (still a private soldier) who is either a good tradesman—carpenter or mason—or a man with a fair amount of education. And it may be mentioned that even if when a lad enlists he is not up to this mark, by a little application, and taking advantage of opportunities, he may very soon become a good scholar, or learn a trade.

All the main features of his living, as regards board and lodging and supply of clothing, will be the same

as has been described before, and there will be no further stoppage of pay; so whatever more money can be earned will be so much to the good, either for making his life more comfortable by getting extra food, or better underclothing, or for investing in the savings-bank.

Supposing a soldier to be employed on ordinary labourer's work, and to be an inexperienced workman, he would be given extra pay at the rate of 2s. 6d. a week, making a total of about 5s. a week pocket-money after all necessities had been provided. Supposing him to be employed five days in a week as an artificer, but not as a skilled workman, extra pay at the rate of 1s. a day would be issued, making a total of about 7s. 6d. a week.

In the case of soldiers employed temporarily in the school as assistant teachers, extra pay would be given them at the rate of 2s. or 3s. a week; and if employed as telegraph clerks, at various rates from 2s. to 7s. a week extra, according to the nature and amount of work done.

Now in all these instances the soldier has at his own disposal sums varying from 6s. 6d. to 11s. 6d. a week, out of which he has merely to pay for his beer and tobacco (which many will think he is better without), little extras at breakfast and tea, and his amusements. Allowing 4s. a week for that, it will be evident that a man inclined to save money can do so at rates of 10s. to 30s. a month, and teetotallers at an increased rate. But whether the figures mentioned above are questioned or not, it is a mere statement of fact to say that it is a common thing in the army to have men putting by regularly 10s. and 15s. a month. And soldiers may be more induced to save, now that

they feel there is a steady accumulation of pay always going on for them. This "Deferred Pay" at the rate of £3 a year cannot be forfeited except for grossly bad conduct, and therefore after seven years in the army it will have amounted to £21; and it has been shown that soldiers have many opportunities of saving money; therefore taking a very low standard, say 10s. a month for ten months in the year, and reckoning only on five years' savings, this will amount to £25, which added to the Deferred Pay would give a sum of nearly £50.

Of course, by taking the case of a man earning the higher rates of pay, it could be shown that he might leave the army at twenty-five years of age with £70 or £80, this saving having been made without any undue pinching or hard living.

Besides the amounts of extra pay mentioned thus far, it must be added that continued good conduct is rewarded with an increase of pay of 1d. a day after two years', and 2d. a day after six years' service, which naturally helps the soldier to remain steady and enables him to add to his account in the savings-bank.

If space had permitted we would have referred to some other essential points in the young soldier's career; offering him some advice as to how best to keep out of mischief and to avoid bad company during his leisure hours; and we would have tried to put in its true light the subject of military offences and their punishments, about which there is a good deal of misunderstanding. These matters must, however, stand over for the present, but in a future number we shall hope to show the excellent prospects open to those young men who wish to make the army their permanent profession.

JOSEPHINE'S DREAM.

JOSEPHINE MARCH lived in an old red-brick house, which stood at the corner where the Canon's Close intercepts the Cathedral Square. It looked on neither of them, except as it were by the side glance of two big windows which lit its staircase. All its other casements opened on its own green garden, large enough to allow of bright flower-beds, open sunny lawns, and bower-like leafy dells. The Misses Knightley, to whom the house belonged, took a pride and an interest in their garden. They were proud too of the delicate needlework which decorated their apartments, and days had been when they had added to its treasures; but they were old ladies now, and their eyes were failing, and they did no more. But spring and summer, autumn and winter, made room for perpetual changes in that garden, and their gentle exercise in its genial sunshine did them good. And Miss Margaret often said to Miss Elizabeth, "What should we do without the garden and Josephine?"

Josephine was not of their blood. She could

remember the day when first she wondered who she was. She remembered asking that question of Miss Elizabeth. And she remembered the kind lady's answer, "that when she was old enough she should know all they could tell her." The promise was kept when she was seventeen.

That was three years ago, and Josephine would have started to be told how many hours she had spent in revolving the few meagre particulars she then heard. She was a foundling discovered in an encampment of gipsies, whose thievishness had brought down the police upon them. The pretty baby's fair hair and blue eyes had provoked inquiry, and some of the old women of the gang had eagerly confessed that she was none of their people: she had belonged to a strange young woman who had joined them some months before and had since died. They could not be quite sure whether she was the mother. She had always said she was not. One harridan went so far as to narrate the dead girl's confession that she had had a baby of her own, which had died, and that she had stolen this one to personate it, for the sake of some