

THE LIFE OF THE NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER.

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

ORDINARY PROMOTIONS.

A DESCRIPTION has already been given of the daily life and duties of private soldiers, when serving in England in times of peace, and of the opportunities of turning their army service to good account, taking the case of those who leave their regiments at the early age of from twenty-two to twenty-five years, and quitting the army entirely at about thirty.

It remains now to be considered what inducements the Service can hold out to such as desire to make it their permanent profession. For, under the most recent regulations, a soldier of good character, who has ability to become a trustworthy corporal and sergeant, can claim almost as a right to continue his service for twenty-one years, and to retire then with a suitable pension. The army can thus offer a career to men of very different tastes, and satisfy very different ambitions.

The terms of service for those whose case is about to be considered are briefly as follows :—

Any corporal or sergeant, after a year's probation, has the right to extend his service to twelve years, counting from date of enlistment, instead of having to leave his regiment and join the army reserve after seven years. He thus completes the term of his original engagement. Supposing he still wishes to stay on in the army, he can *re-engage* for a further term of nine years, thus completing twenty-one years' service in all, and at the end of that time he will be in a position to receive a permanent pension, which will vary from about £30 to £80 a year, according to his rank and service.

There is thus a very broad line drawn between the privates and non-commissioned officers; the former remaining only seven years in the regiment, and perhaps leaving after three years, the latter staying on (if they choose to do so) for twenty-one years.

All that has been said in my former papers about the lives of privates must of course hold good for those whose career is now to

be discussed—that is, until they get their first step of promotion; but it is very unlikely that a young man enlisting with the determination to rise in the profession will be kept waiting any length of time as a private soldier. With a certain amount of education, and an aptness for picking up the daily duties of barrack life, he might easily become a lance-corporal in six months from his enlistment, and would hardly ever (nowadays) be longer than a twelvemonth before he appeared with “one stripe” on his arm—the sign that he had taken one step in the right direction.

Now, although the position of lance-corporal is a very desirable one when compared with that of a private, it must be confessed that it entails much harder work. A lance-corporal has perhaps more work of one sort and another than any other man in a regiment; but it is to be hoped that a young soldier anxious to better himself will not be afraid of a few months' hard work, more especially as he will escape many of the unpleasant duties he may have had to do as a private. He will never have to do now those little “fatigue duties,” such as cleaning up the barrack-room, or sweeping out the regimental buildings, as before described. He will have to go on guard duty, but will not have to walk about as a sentry; for his work now will be to see that the privates do their duty. The lance-corporal's position is, in fact, one of considerable responsibility; for he has to be continually superintending the work of small parties of other soldiers, and is to a great extent responsible that it is done at the proper time and in the proper way. He has to use his head a good deal, and his legs still more, for sometimes he may be kept “on the go” from morning to night; but it will probably just make the whole difference to an ambitious soldier to feel that he is raised at least one step above the mass of the privates, and that even if his work is harder than theirs, it is a work of authority requiring tact and intelligence.

As regards meals and sleeping, the lance-corporal is in just the same position that he was in before, having to use the barrack-room for both; but even when "at home" he will feel superior to his former comrades, and may often have occasion to use his authority and maintain discipline.

The pay of the lance-corporal is slightly in advance of the private, amounting to 1s. 3d. a day, or 8s. 9d. a week; and as his expenses are exactly the same as they were before, it may be considered that this increase is merely so much to the good of his pocket.

The next step taken upwards will bring the soldier to the rank of corporal, and from henceforth he will wear two stripes on his arm. There is no necessity for giving any details as to the work of this new position. It is rather easier than that of a lance-corporal, and is certainly less tiresome; so, provided that a man has passed satisfactorily through the grade below, he will have no difficulty at all in taking to his new duties. The higher he gets, the more responsibility is laid upon him; also, of course, the greater will be his fall should he neglect his work or abuse his authority. But as it will (in the majority of cases) be eighteen months or two years before he reaches this rank, he will have learnt experience, and be less liable to get into trouble.

For the first time now a test of education is necessary, and before a man can be made a corporal he must have obtained a third-class certificate in the army schools, and it will be a very wise act if the second-class certificate be taken at the same time; for this will clear him for the next step also, and as examinations are never particularly pleasant, it will be just as well to "kill two birds with one stone."

The pay of a corporal is raised by 5d., making a total of 1s. 8d. a day, or 11s. 8d. a week; and as he also lives in the barrack-room, and has only the same expenses as the privates, his powers of spending or saving money are considerably increased. Referring to what was said on this subject in a former paper, it will appear evident that a corporal with his 1s. 8d. a day will have 4s. 8d. a week more than the private; and as the private was shown to have 2s. 6d. a week as mere pocket-money, so the corporal will have about 7s. a week to spend on himself or his amusements, or, still better, to invest in the savings-bank. Without much trouble, then, he ought to put by at the rate of 5s. a week, and if this be done for, say, ten months in the year, there will be a highly satisfactory result of £10 a year to add to the £3 a year of deferred pay, as before explained.

It is, indeed, a common saying among soldiers that corporals can save, or spend, more money than any other rank; for though the higher grades have of course higher pay, they have much more to do with it. But it is to be hoped that the soldier of good education and ambition will not be content with the position of corporal; but rather, feeling that there are still better things in store for him, push on at the first opportunity to the next step of lance-sergeant.

This rank of lance-sergeant is an intermediate one between corporal and sergeant, but both as regards

work and position it is very much more like the higher rank. The appointment is mainly dependent (as regards time) on the general flow of promotion in the regiment. When there is a vacancy among the sergeants, the senior lance-sergeant gets the place, and the senior corporal becomes a lance-sergeant. But this rule is open to modification in some ways. For instance, the senior corporal may not care to be promoted, or he may not have the necessary school certificate, or may be unfit in other ways; and the colonel of a regiment would have it quite in his power to select any very promising corporal to take the vacant place in the roll of lance-sergeants.

The duties and position of lance-sergeants and sergeants will be more properly treated of under the latter rank; so it may be stated here briefly that the pay of lance-sergeants is 2s. a day—an increase of 2s. 4d. a week on that of corporal. They wear three stripes of white braid on their arm, and sometimes a sash; but this is not a universal custom. It is optional with lance-sergeants to have their meals in the barrack-room, or to become members of the sergeants' mess; it is to be expected, however, that nearly all will take advantage of that greatest of all benefits, and promptly leave the barrack-room and take to the comfortable life which it is in their power to enjoy.

And now we may imagine the soldier to have attained to the rank of sergeant, and to have appeared with the three gold stripes on his arm and the sash over the right shoulder. He is now a member of the sergeants' mess, and a great change has taken place in his life and comforts. It will be as well, then, to describe at once what his new home is like; and although it is still necessary for an unmarried sergeant to sleep and keep his things in a barrack-room, he will probably spend most of the leisure hours of the day in the sergeants' mess, and very comfortable he will be there.

The building used by the sergeants is generally a little separated from the main block of the men's barracks, and consists of two or three rooms, one being used as a kitchen, another as a "bar" for the sale of beer and spirits to the sergeants, and the largest is fitted up as a dining-room and sitting-room. There is in all sergeants' messes a full-sized billiard-table, which as a rule occupies one end of the sitting-room, and can always claim a very fair amount of patronage. Copies of the principal newspapers and some magazines and books of reference may be seen lying about, and easy chairs in which the sergeants may enjoy them. This large room is usually fitted up nicely with curtains and carpet, pictures on the walls, and perhaps a looking-glass over the fire-place.

A vast difference will be apparent in the comfort of the sergeants at meal-times; for instead of having the meat brought on to the bare-boarded table in a tin dish, and the soup, or tea or coffee, poured from a tin can into basins, the mess waiter will now lay the table with a table-cloth, soup-plates, tea-cups, &c., as required. Meat and vegetables will be brought in from the kitchen in ordinary dishes, and handed round to the assembled sergeants, and tea-pots, salt-cellars,

butter-dishes, and other little conveniences will appear in due form. The actual amount of food provided will also be found to be changed for the better.

At breakfast, some dish of meat, or eggs, or even a soup will, as a rule, be added to the plain bread of the barrack-room, and both at breakfast and tea butter is always supplied; at dinner, besides the fact of the meat and vegetables being served in a much more attractive form, a "second course" is no unusual thing.

Of course all this "luxury" is not to be had without paying for it; and every sergeant on first appointment has to pay a subscription of about 7s. to the mess fund, and instead of paying only 3d. a day (as before) for his groceries, he now has to pay about 9d. a day; but almost every man with any ideas of self-respect and self-improvement will feel that the increased comfort is well worth the price paid for it.

It is generally an understood thing that every soldier cleans his own things—such as rifle, belts, and buttons—until he reaches the rank of sergeant; but after that he is allowed, and indeed expected, to hand over this part of the business to a private, and to pay him some small sum for his trouble. A sergeant is supposed to be able to employ himself better than in using a polishing brush and pipe-clay; and this change also will be found a great comfort to the educated and rising young soldier, and from henceforth he will expect to find all his clothes, &c., kept clean and ready for him to wear whenever wanted.

Besides these changes in the style of life which await every soldier rising to the rank of sergeant, the recent regulations have given them other privileges; and the one most to be prized is, perhaps, that which allows them to stay out of barracks after the regular hours, without going through the form of asking for a special "pass." This will be found a great convenience; but even more than that, it ought to show both the general public and the sergeants themselves that they have risen to a position in the army in which they can be freely trusted, and which it is well worth while to keep and respect.

A sergeant's duties are, similarly, a great advance upon what has gone before, especially as regards interest, influence, and responsibility. It would be tedious to go into detail; but some of the principal changes may be referred to. On ordinary occasions of drill, for instance, it will often happen that a sergeant will be called on to take the place of an officer. When doing "guard duty" the sergeant will be almost always in complete command of the men, and may have to exercise his authority promptly and boldly, acting entirely upon his own responsibility. Another duty requiring much firmness and tact is that of regulating, day by day, the various details of work to be done by all the men of his company. But most important of all is the position held by the sergeant *in charge of a room*—i.e., the senior sergeant of each barrack-room—for with him rests the maintenance of discipline, the responsibility for everything done or left undone by the men under him, by day or night, and, above all things, it is in his power to influence the inmates of his room for good or evil, both by precept

and example. With the young soldiers now filling the ranks this point cannot be made too much of, for their habits have yet to be formed when first they enlist; and unless the sergeant in charge of each room studies their characters individually, and treats them accordingly, a grand opportunity of making them good soldiers in the present and good citizens hereafter will be lost for ever. With patience and perseverance it is surprising what a sergeant can effect in this way over the fifteen or twenty men who come under his immediate control; and this power alone ought to be an attraction to young men of good education to make the army their profession.

The pay of a sergeant employed at ordinary duty is 2s. 4d. a day, or 16s. 4d. a week. In some respects he is not quite as well off as the corporal, whose case was taken into consideration last; for a sergeant has much heavier stoppages, and has to spend more in other ways, so as to show proper appreciation of his higher position. But it must be taken into account that a sergeant has a much more comfortable life, and better food, better served; in fact, his "home" being a more comfortable one, he need not spend quite so much as before on extra personal comforts. Supposing he has to pay 9d. a day for groceries and extra "messing," and 5d. a day for liquor, and 1s. a week to the man who looks after his kit, he will have about 7s. a week left for pocket-money, and out of this he will have to pay for his washing, and a subscription of about 1s. 6d. a month to the sergeants' mess.

The deferred pay of £3 a year is also granted to sergeants, and is continued at the same rate for those that re-engage up to the end of twenty-one years service.

There are many very good military appointments open to sergeants, especially as clerks, doing duty either with their own regiments or in some capacity in which they would be permanently settled in a garrison town. The pay of the former class commences with 2s. 6d. a day, and is increased every three years by 6d. a day until 4s. a day is reached; and in the case of the latter class the pay commences with 3s. 6d. and may reach 5s. a day. If a sergeant does not obtain any of these appointments as a permanency, he may often get one temporarily, in which case he would be given extra pay of 1s. a day. To show that there is a fair chance of an intelligent soldier getting one of these posts, it may be mentioned that there are at least 2,500 of the *better* class mentioned above, with pay at from 24s. 6d. to 35s. a week; and there are about 10,000 appointments as ordinary sergeants (of various grades) belonging to the different branches of the army; the rates of pay of these being from 14s. to 30s. a week—always reckoning (as before) mere pay, it being understood that the extras reckoned at 8s. 6d. a week, in the shape of board, and lodging, and firing, &c., which the soldier gets free, must be taken into consideration if his position is to be compared with that of a civilian, and also that an ordinary sergeant or staff clerk, as referred to above, can always get thirty days' holiday every year, the whole of his pay being given to him as if he was still at his work!

vapour becomes a liquid it gives out heat : therefore, the dew in depositing ought to warm the ground, and not cool it. A little consideration will explain this difficulty. If we place a heated body, such as a hot iron ball, or kettle filled with boiling water, in the middle of the room, out of contact with anything else but air, we shall find it cools by sending out its heat on all sides. This is termed "Radiation of Heat ;" and we find bodies differ very much in the rapidity with which they lose heat in this way, some radiating very rapidly, and others more slowly. Thus a black tea-pot will radiate and cool the water contained in it much faster than a bright metallic one. Again, if we put the end of a poker into the fire, and allow it to remain there some time, we shall find that the heat travels outwards from the fire along the poker, and in a short time the end farthest from the fire will be quite hot. This is called "Conduction of Heat," because the heat is, as it were, conducted by the metal of the poker from one part to another. In this property there is also great difference among bodies : some, such as metals, conducting rapidly, and others, such as marble, scarcely at all. Thus, if we put hot water into a metallic kettle the handle will soon become very hot, unless there is some bad conducting substance, such as bone or ivory, inserted between the handle and the body of the kettle. The handle of an earthenware vessel in similar circumstances will remain cool for a long time.

The reason, therefore, why dew is most copiously deposited on good radiators and bad conductors is very apparent. These bodies radiate rapidly into space or the upper portions of the air, and being bad conductors, this loss of heat is not made up by conduction from the earth or other bodies in contact with them : that is, they give out more heat than they take in, and consequently become cool enough to condense the dew on their surface. On the other hand, little or no dew is deposited on bad radiators and good conductors, because they lose little heat by radiation, and that little is immediately made up by conduction, and

so they never get cool enough for the condensation of the vapour above them.

The other facts we have noted can be equally well explained on the same principles. That dew is not deposited in cloudy weather is easily understood. If we have a heated metallic ball in the middle of a room, its heat will not be radiated away if we surround it with a non-conducting screen ; the heat will all be reflected back again to the ball, which, therefore, will not cool to any extent until the screen itself gets hot and begins to radiate from its outer surface. The clouds act exactly like this screen, returning the radiation of the ground, and preventing it cooling below the temperature of the air, which, as we have seen, is essential to the manifestation of the phenomenon. This same principle explains the covering of plants with matting : it prevents radiation.

Then, again, dew is never deposited where there is much wind, because the wind makes a continual circulation of the air, and never allows any portion of it to remain long enough in contact with a cold surface to reduce its temperature to the point of depositing dew. Thus we get a complete and satisfactory explanation of the phenomenon, and we can intelligently follow the whole process. We have first the warm day, evaporating the watery vapour to a large extent ; then follows the colder night, reducing the temperature almost to the dew point. Then we have the good radiating grass and other bodies sending the heat acquired during the day freely up into the cloudless space above them, and rapidly reducing their temperature below that of the air in contact with them, which is in consequence cooled still further, and the dew copiously distilled and the thirsty land refreshed.

We may thus have abundant supplies of moisture to invigorate the vegetable kingdom, even when the sun is hot and sultry and the rain refuses to fall. Thus in the wise arrangements of Nature we find ample and varied provision made for causing the grass to grow, that there may be plenty for man and for beast, and no famine in the land.

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

HIGHER PROMOTIONS.



T will be right now to refer briefly to the still higher positions which exist in every regiment, and which some men may prefer to the appointments just spoken of. The next step upwards for a sergeant to take will bring him to the rank of colour-sergeant, or, as it is now generally termed, "pay-sergeant," and he will find the duties of this position very important ; for the colour-sergeant is the head of the company to which he belongs, having under him eight

non-commissioned officers and perhaps sixty men ; and the Company officers will look to him to see that all these do their duty, and that discipline is maintained. It would, indeed, be the truth to say that the whole well-being and good conduct of the company depend, to a very great extent, upon the ability and tact with which the colour-sergeant does his duty. Besides this, he is usually the captain's accountant, and is generally held responsible that the accounts of the men are correctly kept ; that they are really entitled to the pay given them by the captain, and that the proper amount of money is deducted from their pay whenever necessary. He is also responsible that the

proper issues of bread and meat are made to the men, and he must be well versed in all the detailed regulations as to the men's clothing, &c. Every week he will have large sums of money passing through his hands; for the company could not be paid under about £20 a time. Happy, then, is the captain who has a colour-sergeant under him to carry out all these duties with intelligence and strict honesty.

The colour-sergeant will, of course, be a member of the sergeants' mess, and unless married will use it for his meals, &c.; but, as a matter of fact, it is generally the case that by the time a man reaches this rank he has also got a wife, and lives in the married quarters which form a part of all barracks. His pay is 3s. a day, and he has all the other additional advantages which have been referred to before.

Passing on still higher we come to another class of non-commissioned officers, termed staff-sergeants, who are at the head of their special respective branches; for instance, one is employed on the issue of bread and meat, coals and clothing, made to the whole regiment, another has similar duties as regards the pay of the regiment; and another, as clerk, manages the correspondence. There are altogether nine staff-sergeants in every regiment, and their pay varies from 3s. 6d. to 5s. a day.

At the head of all there is one man (in many respects the most important soldier in the regiment), who is called the sergeant-major. He holds a rank which is distinct from all those below him, and which is, indeed, but very little removed from the rank of an officer.

It is unnecessary here to attempt to describe the duties of the sergeant-major. Suffice it to say that, not taking the officers into account, he is virtually the head of the regiment; every man, whatever his work may be, coming more or less under his influence; and thus he holds a position which any one might be proud to have filled satisfactorily.

The sergeant-major is what is called a warrant officer—*i.e.*, he holds his appointment by "warrant," signed by the Secretary of State for War. A soldier must not be below the rank of sergeant, nor over forty years of age, when recommended for the position of sergeant-major, and at the age of forty-five he will be forced to retire. There are altogether in the army about 400 sergeant-majors, either connected with regiments or doing duty in garrison towns, and nearly 200 warrant officers in addition, employed with the various departments of the army. These get pay varying from 5s. to 6s. a day, which comes to about £90 to £109 a year. This may be considered well worth striving for; but even now the limit has not been reached of what is attainable by deserving and ambitious soldiers.

It is pretty well proved that it is quite an exception to find ordinary soldiers anxious to obtain commissions as officers—that is to say, commissions as lieutenants. There are certainly a limited number of non-commissioned officers who are fitted by birth and education for that position, and if they have private means to enable them to live as other officers live, and if they can pass

a tolerably severe examination, it is provided by the regulations that they can raise themselves in that way; and there are a certain number of officers thus selected every year from the ranks.

But there is a far larger number of appointments of another sort open to deserving soldiers, which also confer on the holder the rank of a commissioned officer; and there are also many non-commissioned officers perfectly fitted for these positions, which may be especially mentioned owing to the high rate of pay connected with them.

The rank referred to is that of quarter-master or riding-master; and, as was said above, this gives the possessor the position of a commissioned officer. The pay varies according to length of service and corps—viz., from 9s. to 15s. a day, or from £160 to £270 a year. There are approximately about 340 of these appointments, and it may be clearly understood that every one of them is filled by some deserving soldier who has enlisted as an ordinary recruit, and worked his way up through the various grades to this excellent position, holding the relative rank of either a lieutenant or captain; and thus, having started in the army with a shilling a day, he now is able to draw in pay alone, at the very least, £160 a year, and able to add on another £100 by length of service.

In the case of these officers, also, a considerable addition is made to their pay by certain allowances; for they would either have lodgings found them, and be given fuel and light and the services of a soldier servant, or have an equivalent in money.

Having now briefly described the ordinary course of the soldier's life, it only remains to refer to one or two cases of a somewhat exceptional nature. Thus we find that although the prescribed period of service is seven years with a regiment, yet a discretionary power is granted to enable men to leave after only three years, completing their time in the reserve.

Many men may fancy they would like army life, and yet, after a bit, find that they can do better elsewhere. Here, then, they have a chance afforded them of returning to their homes, or taking advantage of any opening they may have found in civil life, and, at the same time, reaping the benefit of their army service; for by leaving the regiment after three years they would have nine years still left to be in the reserve, and while working at their new trades would be able to draw their pay and deferred pay for belonging to the reserve.

Let us take a case. A lad grows up working in the fields as a farm labourer, or perhaps learning his father's trade as carpenter or mason, or serving an apprenticeship to some business. At the age of nineteen he gets tired of his quiet home life, enlists into his county regiment, and serves in it until he is about twenty-two or twenty-three years old, when we may imagine him returning to his former occupation as a member of the army reserve. He has, by this time, about £10 deferred pay owing to him, and may have saved a few pounds besides. He has been taught habits of punctuality, regularity in work, attention to the call of duty in things small and great, and may

have gained experience and self-control both in obedience and command. For the next nine years he will be able to draw £9 a year, which will be a substantial help to him in his new start in life. His friend of former days, who has never left his home, will of course have got on at his trade and improved his position meanwhile; but it is probable that the soldier's comparatively short absence of three years will not prevent him from very soon regaining an equally good position, and he will then have the advantages mentioned above all to the good, and in favour of his ultimate success in whatever line of life he follows.

Another case, a little out of the ordinary order of things, is that of a soldier who has enlisted into his county regiment, and having reached the rank of sergeant, wishes to marry and settle down without sacrificing his army prospects. There is a grand opening for such an one in the permanent staff of the militia or volunteers, for after ten years' service in the army he will be eligible for the militia, and after seventeen years' for the volunteers; and having once joined either of these forces as a sergeant on the perma-

nent staff, he can make a comfortable home for himself and his wife, without fear of having to move about, or of leaving his own county, and will be able to follow his soldier's career until entitled to retire on a pension. This refers to all the upper ranks, including quartermasters, warrant officers, and ordinary sergeants. They will be able to remain on the permanent staff to complete their original army engagement, and will become entitled to their pensions, as described in a previous paper.

The number of these appointments is, with the militia about 3,600, with the yeomanry about 250, and volunteers 1,500.

Most of the principal phases of a soldier's ordinary career have now been referred to, with an attempt to show how much has been done of late years to improve his position and raise him above the level of soldiers of former times. But, it may be added, these pages have been written not so much to entice young men into the ranks by soft words and pleasing accounts of a life which must often entail hardships and rough living, as to show the general public what is the actual state of things now existing in the English army.

ON AN OLD BAILEY JURY.



It must be, at the least, a promising disciple of Mark Tapley who, upon returning from business, can smile and be cheerful for the remainder of the evening when he finds awaiting him a post-letter with a printed heading over the address, "Petty Jury Summons." About once in every five years each London householder may expect such a notice; and he may be almost equally certain it will reach him at an inopportune period. Either the date fixed will interfere with "stock-taking in the City," or will cut short the annual holiday, or prevent the intended run across to Germany with the girls to school, or will follow close upon recovery from illness, when all business duties have fallen into arrear; but whatever the inconvenience, as a rule the duty must be faced.

To those who have not yet been called upon to serve, we may be able to afford some information which will be useful when the time does come. The sessions at the Old Bailey begin for the most part on Mondays; and at half-past ten on the first day the jurymen assemble in the New Court, to answer to their names and to be sworn in. There is not much, if any, difference now between the social status of the Grand Jury and the majority of the Petty Jury. When the Clerk of the Court calls out the name of a juror, he answers, if present, "Here," and if he has a sufficient reason for not serving, he adds, "Excuse." After some fourteen have been drafted into the jury-box, those who have thus far pleaded excuse are examined on oath as to the nature of their excuse.

A medical certificate of inability through bad health is, of course, the most effective plea, next the infirmity of deafness, and then some exceptionally pressing matter of business. If the reason assigned satisfies the judge, he says, "Excused," but in many cases he directs the summoning officer to repeat the summons for the following sessions. An exemption for "over age" (above sixty) is not valid unless the householder has taken the precaution to have his name erased from the "List of Persons liable to Serve on Juries;" nor does it avail, to get release from the Petty Jury, to plead service on the Grand or Special Jury; nor will a substitute be accepted; nor will residence in another town or city, or the fact of travelling abroad even, stave off the attendance permanently. The Judge, if he excuses a juror for one particular occasion, will, as previously remarked, instruct the officer to summon until the juror does come. In the event of no answer being given when the name is called, the usher calls the name again thrice, and bids "James Slyman, come forward and answer to your name, and save yourself the fine of one hundred shillings!" It is only fair to add, however, that in the case of those who put in an appearance, and who show a readiness to serve, the presiding Judge will endeavour to meet individual necessities. For instance, if a juror wishes for urgent reasons to be exempt for any particular day, or even for two specially-named days in the week, every effort to give effect to such requirement will be made by the Court. This can be done without serious inconvenience; for a larger number are summoned than will actually be required, so as to make full allowance for contingencies.