

# MILITARY MAGAZINES.

By HORACE WYNDHAM.

FROM our earliest youth the majority of us are familiar with the copy-book headline that boldly proclaims the pen to be mightier than the sword. Few opportunities, however, have arisen for seriously testing the truth of this assertion, for authors are as a rule possessed of peaceful temperaments, while soldiers are seldom called upon to display any marked literary prowess in the performance of their military duties. Consequently, the maxim referred to has been generally accepted as correct.

While this is the case, it is none the less interesting to observe the efficacy of the two weapons in combination. This is best achieved by an examination of the different regimental magazines that are published in the British Army. As military journalism is a plant of somewhat slow growth, these are not very many in number. At the same time, however, they amount to at least a score—a number which is quite sufficient for the purpose in hand. Chief among them, together with the names of their respective regiments, are the following (arranged in seniority of corps):—

The Household Brigade (*The Household Brigade Magazine*).

The East Kent Regiment (*The Dragon*).

The Northumberland Fusiliers (*The St. George's Gazette*).

The West Yorkshire Regiment (*The Old and Bold*).

The Yorkshire Regiment (*The Green Howards' Gazette*).

The Royal Irish Fusiliers (*The Sprig of Shillelagh*).

The East Lancashire (*The Lilywhites' Gazette*).

The Welsh Regiment (*The Men of Harlech*).

The Essex Regiment (*The Pompadour Gazette*).

The Royal West Kent Regiment (*The Queen's Own Gazette*).

The North Staffordshire Regiment (*The Knot*).

The York and Lancaster Regiment (*The Tiger and the Rose*).

The Highland Light Infantry (*The Highland Light Infantry Chronicle*).

The Gordon Highlanders (*The Tiger and Sphinx*).

The Leinster Regiment (*The Maple Leaf*).

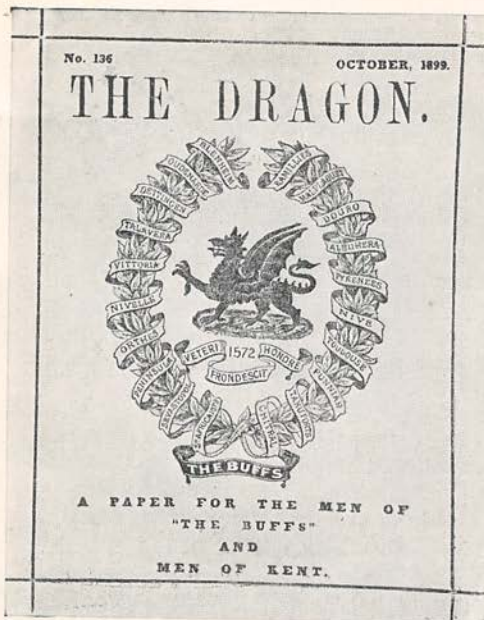
The Royal Munster Fusiliers (*The Bengal Tiger*).

In the cavalry and departmental corps journalistic activity is less marked. A number of unavoidable circumstances in connection with their organisation, however,

fully account for this. For instance, a mounted regiment is usually so weak compared to an infantry one—numerically—that not only is it unable to provide sufficient literary talent to keep a paper going, but it is also unable to support one financially. Exceptions, however, must be made in favour of the 7th Dragoon Guards and the 16th Lancers, who are respectively responsible for the *Black Horse Gazette* and the *Vedette*. Again, the three regiments of Household







Cavalry may also be exonerated from this reproach, as they are already catered for in the *Household Brigade Magazine*.

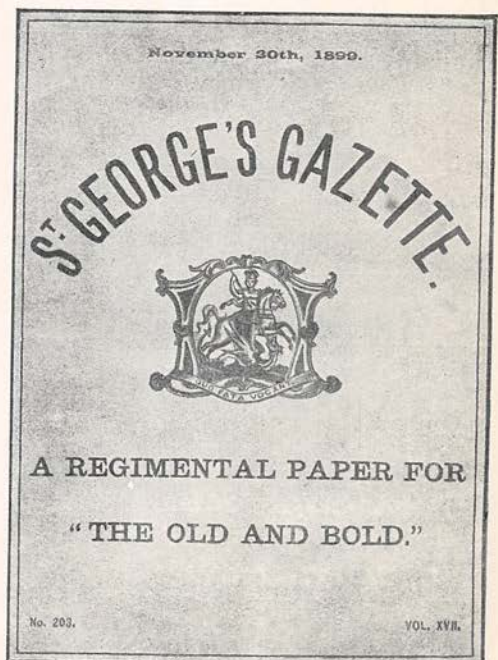
With regard to the remaining arms, the Royal Engineers issue a monthly chronicle, bearing the appropriate title of the *Sapper*, and the Army Service Corps keeps its numbers all over the world continually informed of its doings through the medium of the *Army Service Corps Journal*. Last, although certainly not least, in the list of military periodicals comes the *Globe and Laurel* of that distinguished corps, the Royal Marines.

From a variety of causes, regimental journals are of a somewhat ephemeral nature, and their production is commonly fraught with many difficulties of which the lay reader can have no conception. For one thing, literary skill is not yet included among any of the numerous qualifications demanded of prospective recruits, and proficiency in the uses of pipeclay, rather than pica, is demanded of them by the authorities. Hence it is not surprising that authorship does not flourish conspicuously among the rank and file, and that the editors of military magazines are, accordingly, constantly confronted with the serious problem of how to fill their pages.

This, however, is not the only difficulty with which they have to contend, for it frequently happens that "the exigencies of the Service" also materially interfere with

their arrangements for the punctual appearance of their different numbers. For example, the entire staff may be suddenly sent to carry out their annual musketry practice on the day before that on which the paper goes to press. Again, the War Office (which, by the way, gives but scant encouragement to military journalism) may inconsiderately order the battalion to take part in manœuvres at this time. Finally, the services of a valued contributor may be temporarily lost, before his instalment of "copy" shall have been completed, owing to his being compelled to fulfil an unexpected engagement with the provost-sergeant. In these and similar important instances the editor has no alternative but to suspend publication until matters are once more running smoothly. It speaks much, therefore, for the enterprise and devotion of the responsible parties that they contrive to issue their respective papers with any regularity at all.

Speaking generally, there is a strong family likeness between all military magazines, for they each present several features in common. There are extracts from the regimental orders that have appeared since the last issue, accounts of cricket and football matches in which the corps has taken part, and, finally, a page of what may be termed "domestic occurrences"—i.e., marriages, births, and deaths. Then another stock contribution—





and one without which no correctly conducted regimental paper is felt to be really complete—consists of a column of news concerning the regiment's "linked battalion." As the two are usually quartered in different portions of the globe, the latter feature is necessarily somewhat wanting in freshness. This, however, is considered to be a matter of but little importance, and it is very properly felt that gift items of intelligence should not be looked at too closely in the date.

The first periodical on the list given at the commencement of this article is the *Household Brigade Magazine*. This, as its name implies, is the organ of the three regiments of Household Cavalry and the Brigade of Foot Guards. It is published monthly, and, both in general appearance and in the quality of its contents, easily takes the lead among military journals. When first started in its present form (in 1885) it was known as the *Brigade of Guards Magazine*, and was connected only with the wearers of the bearskin. About 1896, however, the Household Cavalry were admitted into a literary partnership with the other Guards regiments, and consequently the name of the magazine was changed to its present one.

For the first ten years of its existence the paper was edited by Colonel the Hon. H. F. Eaton, late of the Grenadiers, and under his supervision it was brought to a high standard



FIRST T.A.: What are you doing?

SECOND T.A.: Practising "Cock o' the North" sitting down, in case I get shot through both ankles.

CARTOON FROM THE "ST. GEORGE'S GAZETTE."

of efficiency. From this, moreover, it has been in no way permitted to deteriorate by the staff which has since assumed control. Each number contains some seventy pages devoted to the doings of Guardsmen all over the world, together with short stories and stirring accounts of travel and adventure, etc. Altogether, the *Brigade of Guards Magazine* is quite "one of the best."

The next paper, in order of seniority of regiment responsible for it, is the *Dragon*. This is the accredited journal of "The Buffs," (East Kent Regiment). It is published at Kamptie and is chiefly concerned with the chronicling at monthly intervals of the deeds of the 1st Battalion of this distinguished corps. That the pen wielded by the editor is no heavy one will be best gathered from this extract. It is taken from an article relating to events of a "domestic" nature:—

The accumulation of "olive branches" in this department can only be recorded by the word "stupendous." "Let 'em all come!" seems to be the motto of our married establishment. In the absence of any further interesting items, I will now proceed with my—

As this cheerful breeziness of style is maintained in the other departments of the paper, a copy of the *Dragon* makes good reading.

The Fifth Fusiliers have a way of doing things well, and the manner in which they produce their regimental paper—the *St. George's Gazette*—is no exception to the rule. With its four-and-twenty pages of well written and well printed reading matter, and a number of photographic reproductions and original sketches, included in each number, the *Gazette* easily takes a foremost place

VOL. VII.—No. 79.
OCTOBER, 1899.

THE

GREEN HOWARDS'

GAZETTE

BRAEFORD.
PRICE THREEPENCE.



among its military contemporaries. It is also a veteran among these, as it is now in its eighteenth year. As an example of the enterprise of its staff, it may be mentioned that a Christmas supplement is published annually. This contains original stories and verses from the pens of many well known authors, included among whom has been Rudyard Kipling. Coloured illustrations have also occasionally appeared in these pages.

The average monthly circulation enjoyed by the *Gazette* is about 3,000. This, however, does not include the special Christmas numbers, which have a very large circulation in themselves. The extra issues are copiously illustrated.

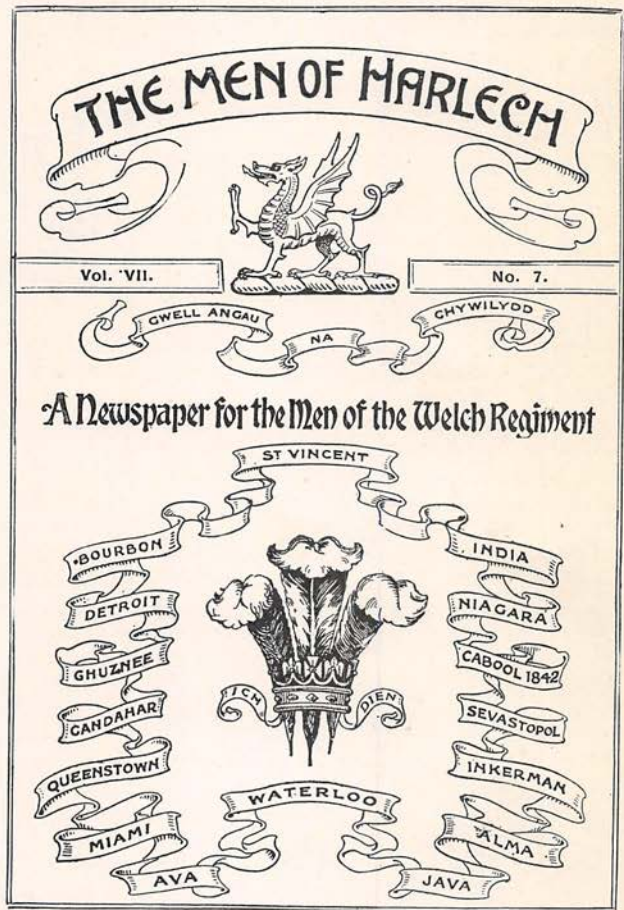
The *Green Howards' Gazette* is the monthly organ of the 19th The Princess of Wales's Own (Yorkshire Regiment), and is sold at the modest rate of three-pence per copy. The paper was launched in Jersey, and for the last five years has been edited by Captain Ferrar. From its commencement it has made a special feature of inserting in its columns articles that concern only its own corps, instead of the Army in general. About twenty pages go to each number, and two or three good illustrations are always included. In the copy from which the cover is reproduced, Private F. Jones enlarges in this manner on the joys of military existence in Strensall:—

The natives of Strensall are mostly horny-handed "sons of toil." There also are specimens of the truly rustic maiden to be found. Big, round face like a moon. Lily-white hands the size of shoulders of mutton. And her arms move in graceful fashion like the sails of a windmill. She lives on onions and skim milk. She wears a red dress, a brown apron, and her grandmother's best Sunday bonnet. *She* does not say, "Chase me, boys!" although she considers it the correct thing to be chaste.

It should not be long before Private Jones writes the "book" of a comic opera.

Although expressly described on its cover as "a newspaper for the men of the Welch Regiment," the contents of the *Men of Harlech* are printed in current English. This circumstance may possibly be due to a natural desire on the part of the staff to obtain a large circulation. From the "Notice to Correspondents," on the first

page, it would seem that the editor is not unduly embarrassed by the amount of voluntary "copy" that is pressed upon him, for he remarks in this that "he will be pleased to have interviews with men who have matters of interest to relate, and who doubt their powers of putting them on paper." Evidently there is none of the usual unapproachability about the staff of the *Men of Harlech*, for the way of intending contributors could scarcely be made easier.



The paper, which, by the way, is published in India, costs sixpence per copy for officers, and fourpence for N.C.O.'s and men. At the end of each number is a blank page, on which readers are cordially invited to write "Letters to the Editor." Postage stamps, however, are not provided on the same terms. In a journal where so much is done for its contributors, the omission is noticeable.



The Essex Regiment is represented in the field of military periodicals by the *Pompadour Gazette*. It is a quarterly publication (now in its third year), and is printed at the regimental press of the 2nd Battalion, at Shwabo, Upper Burma. As in the case of the last-mentioned paper, the editor invites intending contributors "to personally interview" him about any contribution concerning which they think advice or explanation necessary. They are assured, too, that the strictest secrecy will be observed with respect to their names. That this is the case is evident from an examination of the copy before the writer, for the whole of Fleet Street would be unable to pierce the anonymity that shrouds the personalities of "No Sam" and "Jo Hukm," who are respectively the authors of "The Bhamo Letter" and "F Company Notes" in this particular issue.

The *Queen's Own Gazette*, the chronicle of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, is, perhaps, the oldest paper of its class in existence, as the first number was published on January 1, 1875. It has a large circulation, not only among the present officers and men of the regiment, but also among ex-members thereof. Interest in the Militia and Volunteer battalions connected with the regiment is also maintained by devoting a couple of pages in each issue to the chronicling of their doings.

From Staffordshire to Subathu is a far



cry, but it is at this latter place, nevertheless, that the 1st Battalion, the North Staffordshire Regiment, publishes, at quarterly intervals, its regimental paper. This, which costs twopence per copy, is entitled the *Knot*, and, as it provides a ready means of furnishing friends at home with an account of the regiment's doings in the East, the magazine enjoys a considerable circulation. A feature of the *Knot* (and one which does not seem to be shared by any of its contemporaries) is the publication in each number of an article by a N.C.O. or private, and for the best of which a prize is given.

The regimental paper of the York and Lancaster Regiment—the *Tiger and Rose*—was first published in 1887. It then appeared at monthly intervals, but two years ago it became a quarterly. It is printed at Agra, N.W.P., and its staff consists of a major and a corporal of the 2nd Battalion. To the general public it is sold at eightpence per copy, while to the N.C.O.'s and men of the regiment the price is reduced to fourpence.

Another quarterly—and a remarkably well produced one—is the *Highland Light Infantry Chronicle*, which is printed and published at Hamilton, N.B. In the thirty pages of each number is recorded, in a most interesting fashion, the history of their distinguished corps for the previous three months, and numerous notes concerning past





and present members of the regiment also find a place therein. In addition to these regular features, the different issues contain several good reproductions of photographs. The *Chronicle* has been in existence for seven years, and has a quarterly circulation of about 2,000.

The Gordon Highlanders are usually so busily engaged in fighting in some portion or other of the Empire that they have but little time to devote to producing their regimental paper—the *Tiger and Sphinx*. For this reason it has not lately made its appearance. As soon, however, as one of the battalions happens to be relieved from the claims of active service, the publication will be taken up again.

It is, appropriately enough, in Canada that

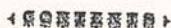
AGRA N. W. P.

OCTOBER 1899



NOW ISSUED QUARTERLY.

FIRST PUBLISHED JUNE 1887.



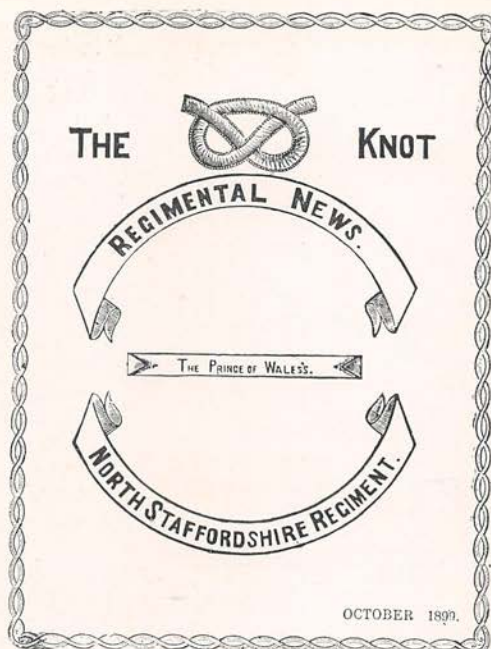
Remember Majuba  
Regimental Notes.  
To an unknown Correspondent  
Sergeant's Mess (2nd Div.)  
N. E. Rifle Meeting  
The Red, White, & Blue  
Oh! I do Love the Army

History of the 65th Regt.  
History of the 14th Regt.  
St Helena Records  
The 64th in India  
On Various Companies  
The King's Own V. L. I.  
The Volunteers in Camp  
The Life of Tommy Atkins

No. IV. Vol. XII

4 Annas Post Free

Printed at the 2nd Bazar, York & Lancaster, Press Agts.



the *Maple Leaf* is published, by the 1st Battalion, the Leinster Regiment ("The Royal Canadians"). The editor is Captain and Quarter-Master Wilkin, and his contributors are furnished from the officers, N.C.O.'s, and men of both battalions of the regiment. The paper has a good circulation both at home and abroad, and the excellent manner in which it is supported by advertisers must make the editors of Captain Wilkin's contemporaries decidedly envious. This anecdote, extracted from a

recent number, will be appreciated by military readers:—

#### THE WRONG PART.

While the Channel Fleet were in the Forth some time ago, an officer, accompanied by the "butcher," landed from an ironclad for the purpose of buying a bullock. When making the bargain, the officer felt its flanks very closely, while the marine examined its hoofs.

"That's the wrong part to examine, man," observed the former.

"That's the part we get, sir," was the quiet reply.



GORDON HIGHLANDERS' CHRONICLE.

BY DAND

No 5 EDINBURGH 31ST DECEMBER 1898. Price Twopence

#### MYSORE

EGMONT-OP-ZEE

SERINGAPATAM

CORUNNA.

MANDCRA

ALMARAZ.

FUENTES D'ONOR.

PYRENEES

VITTORIA.

ORTHERS.

NIVE.

WATERLOO.

PENINSULA.

DELHI.

SOUTH AFRICA, 1835

CHARASIAH

LUCKNOW

KANDAHAR, 1880.

KABUL, 1879.

EGYPT, 1883-84.

AFGHANISTAN, 1878-80

NILE, 1884-85.

TEL-EL-KEBIR,

CHITRAL.



The regimental paper of the Royal Munster Fusiliers bears a title that at first sight appears to be somewhat inappropriate—*viz.*, the *Bengal Tiger*. This, however, is not really the case, for the regiment was formed from the old Bengal Fusiliers, who had a tiger for their crest. By its present wearers this badge is, by the way, familiarly known as the "Kerry Pig."


The first number of the journal (which is now in its sixteenth year) was published in India. Until a couple of years ago, when it

ment was appearing by instalments in the paper, and included in this was an account of a certain campaign in which it had been engaged. When the number in question was published, its readers were somewhat startled to learn that "the object of this expedition was the seduction of the Rohillas."

Almost as unfortunate, although in a different manner, was another compositor, who rendered the sentence (taken from an account of African travel), "The ladies of Somaliland are not afflicted with coyness," in this fashion: "The ladies of Somaliland are not afflicted with company's mess." The alteration was doubtless occasioned by the fact that "coy." is the usual military contraction for "company." Such little lapses as these, however, are the exception, and not the rule, in the *Bengal Tiger*.

In the cavalry, military journalism is, for reasons already given, a plant of somewhat less vigorous growth than it is in the other branches of the Service. Regimental journals, consequently, are few and far between. The 7th Dragoon Guards, however, are conspicuous among other mounted units in that they bring out a quarterly paper which is edited by one of their subalterns. This is entitled the *Black Horse Gazette*, and is sold at one shilling per copy to officers, and threepence per copy to the rank and file. The biographical notices and "Interviews with Celebrities at Home" contained in each number are written in a manner that makes their reading most agreeable.

Among the methods by which Lieut-Col. Grattan (retired) imprinted his untiring energy in its welfare upon the Army Service Corps, few have been more successful than his founding of the *Army Service Corps Journal*. This, which he started some ten years ago, now takes prominent rank among military magazines. It is published regularly on the tenth of each month, and sold at the modest price of threepence per copy. As each number contains about forty-five pages of reading matter, and has in addition some twenty pages of advertisements, the paper has a substantial appearance. It is

THE	
	
BENGAL	TIGER
Or Regimental Paper of the 2nd Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers	
No. 2.]	[Vol. XV
DINAPORE, BENGAL—QUARTER ENDING 30th JUNE 1899	
MUNSTER	
Contents.	Pages.
1. Our Note Book	1
2. Poetry "The Burst of the Moonson Poet"	4
3. First Battalion Notes	4
4. Moonlight Concerts	4, 5 & 7
5. Swimming Races	5 & 6
6. Assault-at-Arms	6
7. Musketry	6
8. Pig-sticking	7
9. With the Dunsannon Tent Club	9
10. Sergeants' Mess Notes	9
11. Hockey	12
12. Regimental Items	12
13. Domestic Occurrences	13
14. Homes for Officers' Widows and Daughters	15
15. Unclaimed Soldiers' Balances	16
16. Our Contemporaries	16
PAPER.	

became a quarterly, it had always appeared at monthly intervals. As the Irish soldier is not a great reader, its circulation is necessarily less than that enjoyed by the majority of its Saxon contemporaries. The paper is produced entirely by members of the regiment and is printed by private soldiers. As a rule they acquit themselves of their work in an able fashion, but occasionally unfortunate errors crop into the pages and are undetected by the proof-readers, as the following example will show: An article on the early history of the regi-



"Nil Sine  
Labore."  
No. 2, Vol. XVIII.



# THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS JOURNAL.

NOV., 1899.

THREE PENCE.

OR

POST FREE AT HOME, 4½d.

ENTERED AT STATIONERS HALL.

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VOL. II., No. 12

OCTOBER  
1899.



# CHRONICLE.

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY. PRICE THREEPENCE.

MACL. REN & SONS, GLASGOW AND LONDON.

exceedingly well printed (at the Corps' own press, Aldershot) and is produced in a manner that would reflect credit on a good many non-Service periodicals. The contents of the various issues consist principally of articles on transport and commissariat arrangements, and extracts from the Corps orders of the past month. As the *Journal* has correspondents in nearly every part of the world (for the A.S.C. does duty everywhere except in India), it is well supplied with news.

As is only appropriate—considering that it caters primarily for the Royal Marines—the *Globe and Laurel* always devotes a portion of its space to fiction. This, as a rule, takes the shape of a short story or a descriptive (and highly imaginative) account of the deeds of representatives of the Corps abroad. The remaining items of each number usually

comprise well written articles on topics of interest to this distinguished branch of the Service, and papers on the doings of the various detachments of the Royal Marines, which, scattered in all four corners of the world, are ever upholding the supremacy of the Empire. The *Globe and Laurel* has pro-

bably the largest staff of any of its contemporaries, as this consists of one editor-in-chief and no less than nine assistant - editors, together with a small army of correspondents abroad. Its monthly circulation is not far short of 5,000.

In one of its recent numbers the paper reproduced a most interesting recruiting-poster that was issued at the beginning of the last century. This document is set forth in terms calculated, one would think, to imbue half the youth of England with an unquenchable desire to

Vol. VI. - No. 6

OCTOBER 16th, 1899.

THE

MAPLE



LEAF.

A Monthly Paper for the Officers, N. C. Officers and  
Men of the 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment.

(ROYAL CANADIANS)

(LATE 100th FOOT.)

Printed by LAMAR & CO., Army and Navy Printers and Stationers, Dublin, E. C.



reinforce the Corps without a moment's delay. Here, for instance, is an extract therefrom :—

“What a brilliant prospect does this event (the outbreak of the American War) hold out to every lad of spirit who is inclined to try his fortune in that highly renowned Corps, the Royal Marines, when everything that sails the seas must be a prize! . . . Lose no time then, my fine fellows, in embracing the glorious opportunity that awaits you. You will receive sixteen guineas bounty, and on your arrival at headquarters be comfortably and genteely clothed. . . . The single young man, on his return to Port,

finds himself enabled to cut a dash on shore with his Girl and his Glass, that might be envied by a Nobleman. Take courage, then; seize the Fortune that awaits you; repair to the Royal Marines *Rendezvous*, where in a Flowing bowl of Punch, in Three Times Three, you shall drink ‘Long live the King, and Success to His Royal Marines!’”

The recruiting authorities are more modest nowadays, and the wording of the present-day “General Advantages of the Army” placard is not to be compared with the foregoing. One wonders, indeed, how anyone ever held out against such inducements.



HIGHLANDERS.

*A photographic study by Charles Reid, Wishaw.*