

MILITARY—COMMENCEMENT OF THE FRENCH WAR.

There was now an extraordinary demand for men for both army and navy. The Town of Perth undertook to raise a body of men for Admiral Keith Elphinston, then a captain. Every day the streets were paraded by a party, bearing a large ship flag, and beating drums, recruiting for seamen; and numerous parties, employed by various officers, who were eager to fill up their companies. The Earl of Breadalbane obtained a warrant to raise two battalions of Fencibles. Three hundred of his tenants' sons marched into Perth in a body, and exhibited the finest specimens of men that could anywhere be found. These troops having been only raised as Scotch Fencibles, when disturbances broke out in Ireland, no argument could induce them to serve in that country. Lady Breadalbane, who had taken great interest in these proceedings, was so incensed at their obstinacy, that she is reported to have declared, that she would raise a regiment that would march to the d——l if she desired it. A third regiment was accordingly embodied to serve in Ireland. By this time the new doctrines of the Rights of Man had been extensively spread through the country, and produced an important change in the public mind. The officers who had formerly been in the service, now found it a different business to deal with the men. They had acquired a knowledge of what was their due, and courage to demand it. One of the battalions of Breadalbane Fencibles, had not received their arrears of pay and bounty: on the morning on which they were to march, the regiment was drawn up in front of the George inn; when ordered to shoulder arms, each man stood immovable! The order was repeated, but still not a man stirred. Upon enquiring into the cause of this extraordinary conduct, the officer in command was informed, that not having received their arrears, the men were determined not to leave the place till these were settled. This was a dilemma as great as it was unexpected. The paymaster had no funds at his disposal, and the Earl of Breadalbane was not at hand. After much argument and entreaty, they were prevailed upon to march to Kinross; the officer pledging himself that every thing would be settled there on the return of an express from the Earl. A mutiny broke out some time afterwards in the first battalion; in consequence of which two of the men were shot, by order of a general court martial.

The present venerable Lord Lynedoch, the gallant self-taught general, was at this time in the south of France. When hostilities commenced, he took an active part at Toulon, as a volunteer. At the siege of Mantua, when the garrison was reduced to the utmost distress, he escaped from that fortress through the French lines, with dispatches to the Austrians.

At this time he was plain Thomas Graham of Balgowan, of fox-hunting notoriety. He was distinguished for his reckless daring, had performed many incredible feats of horsemanship, and was considered the first horseman in the country; but his true genius had not yet been developed. The news of his active and distinguished services were therefore received with surprise in this country. The next information respecting him was his arrival in Perth, with a warrant to raise and embody a regiment (the 90th). Recruiting parties were established in all directions; the jails of the metropolis and the provinces delivered up their inmates, and in a few weeks the ragged regiment mustered in the Inch 1,500 strong, exhibiting as motely a crew as ever stemmed a bullet. Broken-down lawyers, ci-divant preachers, play-actors and pickpockets—English, Irish, and Scotch. Amongst the squad, one fellow, who had been a clergyman, was very conspicuous. On the Sabbath day he might be seen preaching with zeal and solemnity to a serious multitude; and in a few minutes afterwards, be engaged in a lark, or stripped to the skin at a boxing match. The whisky at this time being little more than a penny a gill, was a source of exquisite delight to the Irishmen and Cockneys. The former became so notorious for desertion, that few officers would take them into their regiments, when raising men for their commissions, in consequence of the heavy loss thus frequently entailed upon them. Pat, however, soon became sly enough to disguise his brogue, and continued to pocket the bounty, till an officer here invented an appropriate shibboleth. The Irish were always caught with "*Whisky*." But to return to the "*Grey Brecks*," as they were called, the desertion became so great, that to prevent their escape, troops were stationed at the different roads; at the Bridge of Earn, the Bridge of Almond, Forteviot, &c., and on every pass from the town. To keep them in humour, they were frequently regaled with public dinners on the Inch. Entire oxen were roasted, and London porter distributed in hogsheads; the whole corps being seated on the grass in fifties, a plentiful supply of meat and drink was served to each. The first battalion was marched to Leith before receiving any discipline, and shipped for foreign service, where the gallant 90th soon acquired a name by their intrepid bravery. General Graham, during his presence with the army at Toulon, had observed the merits of a Captain Moncrieff, a gentleman belonging to an ancient and respectable family in the neighbourhood. This gentleman he made his Lieutenant Colonel; and had no cause to regret the appointment, as Moncrieff proved to be one of the most able officers in the army. The second battalion went up to England, and was shortly afterwards drafted into other regiments.

Bodies of cavalry were raised by the different counties about this time. Perthshire raised two troops of Fencibles, to be under the command of Moray of Abercairney. During the time they were embodying here, a mutiny broke out, which at first wore a serious aspect. The men when enlisted, were told their pay was to be a shilling a day; without any reference being made to other items of allowance. One evening at parade, Graham of Inchbrakie read a statement of their pay: sixpence a day, with the Queen's bounty, grass money, and some other small allowances, amounting in whole to one shilling. This unexpected intimation was received with bitter disappointment. The men had considered themselves entitled by their agreement, to a shilling a day, in addition to these allowances. One of them boldly told the captain that they were attempting a gross deception, and that he, for one, would not submit to it; adding something more offensive. The enraged captain ordered two corporals to take the offender into custody, but the moment the corporals seized him, the men rushed from the ranks and rescued him. The captain and quarter-master were the only officers present. With some difficulty the men were again formed into line, and the quarter-master kept them occupied in marching up and down the Inch. In the meantime, the captain hastened into town, and brought out a body of the 4th Dragoons, and took the whole of his corps prisoners. The most active of the leaders were put into confinement, and the rest dismissed for the night. Marshall, the individual who replied to the officer, when he saw the Dragoons approaching, sprung from the ranks, and escaped; but gave himself up next day. An express having been immediately sent to Abercairney and the other officers,—on their arrival the prisoners were tried for mutiny. Marshall was sentenced to receive seven hundred lashes; but was afterwards reprieved.

These different bodies of Fencible cavalry formed altogether a large and very expensive force. They were superseded by the Militia and Yeomanry. When the Fencibles were disbanded, the adjutants and quarter-masters were pensioned for life. Some of the quarter-masters are yet alive, and drawing their pensions of £40 a-year.

THE GENTLEMEN VOLUNTEERS.

This body, although not mentioned first, were embodied at the commencement of hostilities with France. The corps at first consisted of three companies of sixty men each, with a major commandant, three captains, six lieutenants, an adjutant, surgeon, and chaplain. Captain Sharp of Kincarrathy was appointed major; this old veteran had been thirty years in the service, in the East and West Indies, and in America.

Mr John Young of Bellwood was captain of the right company, Mr Charles Archer of the left, and Mr Patton, sheriff-clerk, of the centre. A fourth company was afterwards raised, under the command of Mr Robert Ross. This corps agreed originally to serve without pay, and to clothe themselves; each member to pay a guinea and a half of entry money: but the demand for men to fill up the numerous corps of volunteers then raised being great, and the duty becoming more than a counterpoise for the glory, the Government thought proper to allow two days' pay weekly, for which they received two days' exercise. This pay, although regularly drawn, was all put into a general fund, from which was defrayed the expense of clothing and other outlay. Under the instructions of the drill serjeant, the corps rapidly assumed a warlike attitude. Their costume was somewhat parti-coloured and picturesque: consisting of a long superfine *blue* coat, the skirts turned up with *white, red* neck and cuffs, and gold laced button-holes at the neck and sleeves; *white* cassimere vest and breeches, long *black* gaiters; a round hat, and *white feather*. Their undress was a short blue coat with gold loop on the neck, buff pantaloons, and short gaiters. When the fourth company was added, Major Sharp became colonel commandant, and Mr Patton was promoted to the rank of major. Their band consisted at first of only four drums and fifes; but one was afterwards established on a scale of magnificence which made them pay for their whistle; the equipments and other expenses amounting to 3000 guineas. Mr Vogell, a French count, and eminent musician, was engaged to instruct the band at 15s. a day. A German musician, who had been band-master to the Breadalbane Fencibles, then newly disbanded, was afterwards engaged at £150 a-year. Shortly afterwards, an English regiment of fencible cavalry lying here, offered him a higher salary, on which he sent in his resignation, assigning as a reason that the air of Perth was so moist that it filled him with rheumatic pains. He had not been many months in this new situation, when the regiment was disbanded. He would then have gladly returned to the Perth volunteers, but they could not allow him to expose himself to rheumatic pains on their account—the more especially as they were now able to dispense with his services.

During the time the volunteers were embodied, they were frequently called upon to quell riots. During the early part of the war, the price of grain was frequently very high, sometimes owing to bad harvests, and sometimes to obstructions in the communication between the different parts of the country, and the impediments which the war threw in the way of commerce. The first occasion on which the volunteers were called into active service arose out of the following trifling circumstance:

A gentleman of rather timid character, who was a speculator in grain, and dealer in yarn and other commodities, inquired one day at a manufacturer with whom he had been transacting business, what the weavers were saying about the scarcity of meal?—to which it was jocularly replied, that they were threatening to have a riot to turn out the grain which they conceived the dealers had in store. This information threw the grain dealer into the utmost consternation. He instantly repaired to the Magistrates, and succeeded in imparting to them a portion of the fear which distracted himself; the result of which was an order for a captain's guard of 40 men to meet in the Council Room that night. This intelligence soon spread to the west end of the town; and the general belief of the weavers being that the volunteers would never stand opposition, a *row* was of course determined on, that they might have an opportunity of at once and for ever putting them down. The guard had assembled, and were making themselves extremely comfortable over the good things which had been provided for the occasion, when information was received that a large body of people were on their way to the Magdalens, then tenanted by Mr Laurence Buchan. A party of twenty men was instantly dispatched, under the command of Captain Archer. Taking a near cut through the Inch, they pushed on with all haste—but as many of the corps were more distinguished for rotundity than speed of foot, these were sadly distressed by the time the hill was ascended. They arrived at last, when the work of destruction was at its height.—Mr Buchan had been considerably hurt in endeavouring to protect his property, and his wife and daughter had retired to the garret; the windows were demolishing, and the furniture was beginning to share the same fate. Upon the appearance of the *white feathers*, however, the whole decamped with such precipitation, that only one individual, a wright lad, who appeared to have been a mere spectator, was seized near Craigie Bridge in the retreat; the Perth burghers being traditionally celebrated for their success in accomplishing the retrograde movement! One individual, who was remarkable for boasting of his courage, was seized with such a panic, that he never looked behind till he reached the woods of Dupplin, where he lay concealed for some days, till the pangs of hunger compelled him to venture back to town. On their return from Buchan's, the volunteers were somewhat roughly handled by the democrats, in their way down Leonard-street, where piles of stones had been prepared for the purpose; however, by their firmness and forbearance, no serious accident occurred. The prisoner was examined next day, by a summary process before the sheriff-depute, Mr Campbell of Clathi, and ordered to be sent to the navy, which sentence was in-

stantly put in force. By this time notice of what was going on had got abroad, and a multitude assembled with the intention of effecting a rescue. Some disturbances occurred between the volunteers and the crowd; and the moment the chaise started with the prisoner, the dragoons which guarded it were assailed with a shower of stones; and carts and hog-heads were hurled across the street to impede their progress. The annoyance was kept up as far as the Cloven Craigs, when the mob, seeing their numbers greatly diminished, gave up the cause as hopeless. In a few days thirty pounds was raised by subscription, to obtain the prisoner's liberation. A lawyer was employed to negotiate the business, who got the cash into his possession; but the lad was never afterwards heard of. Thus ended the first campaign of the Gentlemen Volunteers.

Shortly after this affair, a vessel having taken in a load of grain for Leith, it was resolved in the councils of the West-end that it should not be permitted to sail with the cargo; and a crowd assembled one evening accordingly to unship the grain. Upon notice of these proceedings reaching the Magistrates, the volunteers were hastily mustered; and as the affair wore rather a serious aspect, they were ordered to load with ball cartridge. In performing this operation, however, it was asserted by the wags, that some of the corps were so excited by the ardour of the moment, that they spilt the powder upon the ground, being unable to find the muzzle of their guns. It was dark when they passed down the Spey-gate, where a party of artillery, with lighted matches, were bringing out some field pieces, which gave things an alarming appearance. By this time the mob had commenced the work of destruction about the vessel. The volunteers having been drawn up at the Grey Friars' gate, the chief magistrate, Provost Caw, stepped into the midst of the destructives, and by using his influence, and endeavouring to convince them of the folly and injustice of their proceeding, induced them to disperse; at the same time assuring them, that the Magistrates would make every effort to provide a sufficient supply of meal, if they would, by respecting the rights of private property, but give confidence to the holders of grain to bring it freely to market. Thus by the judicious conduct of the Provost, this affair was happily quashed, which, by a different course, might have been attended by unpleasant consequences; and the second exploit of the Gentleman Volunteers was concluded without bloodshed.

A second battalion of the Volunteers was afterwards raised, consisting of four companies. This division was filled up by tradesmen, who also received two days' pay weekly. Their dress resembled that of horsemen,

consisting of a short red coat and tight pantaloons, with a helmet and red feather. Their commander Provost Fechny, a man far advanced in years, and ignorant of military tactics, was but ill qualified to take the command of a battalion in the field. Besides, being somewhat corpulent he made rather a grotesque appearance in the dress. On the occasion of one of the quarterly inspections, the field-officer ordered the colonel to put the battalion through their exercise, on which the colonel expressed considerable diffidence in his abilities to go through the business in a proper manner. The field-officer replied in terms not very polite, that in that case he was of no use to the service. This induced the worthy Provost instantly to resign the command, to which Major Hay Marshall succeeded.

The volunteers were afterwards frequently called out to quell meal mobs. A serious riot having occurred one night, a party was ordered to clear the streets, which they at length accomplished at the expense of some broken heads and shins; but as these mishaps were received in the service, they were met with becoming intrepidity. Pathetic stories were told of parting scenes, when the dear goodman took up his musket to go forth to battle—the tender embrace—the last kiss. Perhaps to return with broken bones, a mutilated victim; or perhaps a corpse!—weeping, and the last farewell! All fudge;—when in full dress they were men of valour, and could parade the streets with as much ostentation, and pompous demeanour, as ever an Irish giant strutted in a caravan. In the gentleman corps, the rule of choosing the man of one height and size was but little attended to. Mr Spittal, the left-hand man of the grenadier company, was upwards of six feet three inches, and as fine a figure of a man as could be found in Scotland. Fiscal Rutherford, the right-hand man of the rear rank of the next company, was only four feet nine inches. It thus frequently happened, when the battalion was told off, that Fiscal Rutherford, four feet nine, had to *cover* a hero of six feet three.

The Yeomanry cavalry had by this time been embodied under the command of the Earl of Kinnoul. They were chiefly composed of farmers, and a number of gentlemen about town who kept horses. When their colours were presented to them, the corps assembled at Dupplin; there was a troop from the Carse, one from Strathmore, and another from Strathearn. Colonel Macfarlane of the 72d, then in quarters here, was to be on the ground as inspecting field officer; and a captain's guard of the Gentleman Volunteers, consisting of 60 men, marched out in full

dress in the morning to keep the ground, and fire a *feu de joie* at the conclusion of the ceremony. It was intended that the whole company should dine in a body on the lawn, but the morning proving very rainy, this arrangement had to be altered. On the arrival of the Volunteers in the morning, they were shown into the hall, where there was a plentiful supply of bread and cheese, with large cans full of double-strong whisky, which gave much satisfaction to some of the Perth bon-vivants. By twelve o'clock there was assembled a vast number of nobility and gentry, admirals, post-captains, generals, and commanders of corps, with their ladies, the whole forming one of the gayest spectacles ever seen in the county. The Yeomanry were drawn up on the lawn in front of the house; the Volunteers were in line on the side of the court between the gate of the house and the Yeomanry, their fine band being at the door. When all the arrangements were completed, the Countess made her appearance, bearing a standard in each hand, and after a salute from the Volunteers and the Yeomanry, the band advanced, playing the Highland March, followed by the Countess, with about forty ladies, by twos, all dressed in white muslins. These were followed by a great number of gentlemen in different uniforms, in the same order. On their arrival on the lawn in front of the Yeomanry, they filed off from the right of the corps, the Countess and her train following, and the Volunteers bringing up the rear. The whole then marched round to a park, where there was a platform erected in front of an arbour; on this the ladies and gentlemen took their station; the Yeomanry in front, and the Volunteers in the rear. After the consecration of the colours by the Rev. Mr Beatson, chaplain of the corps, the standards were presented to the officers in fine style by the Countess, with a suitable address. The Volunteers then fired three volleys, which concluded the ceremony; when the whole marched off the ground to another park, where the corps were met by Colonel Macfarlane, and received the approbation of that distinguished officer. Now came the tug of war for dinner: The alteration of the original arrangement had put every thing in confusion. The Earl, with the ladies and gentlemen, were provided for in the castle; but the Volunteers and the Yeomanry were divided in outhouses, wherever room could be found. Some companies were done with dinner before others had begun; some whole companies were without knives; in lieu of which the Yeomanry cut up the meat with their sabres, and if the fleshing of their swords did not inflict bloody wounds, they were at least effectual; every one hacking away at whatever he could lay his fingers on. By the time the dinner was devoured, the trumpet sounded for a turn-out. It had been part of the original plan that the whole

were to assemble in a body, to receive thanks from the Earl for their conduct on the occasion; but his Lordship had made himself so happy with his company, who by this time were far in the mist, that the thing was given up. Just as they were drawn up here, some hogsheads of ale were started on the lawn, and the servants carried out large baskets full of bread and meat, and flung them on the grass to the crowd, leaving the stoutest fellow to share best. When the Volunteers reached home, many of their heads were lighter than their heels.

The Militia Act was the cause of much disturbance in the country, when it came into operation. The parish schoolmasters were attacked in various quarters; attempts were made to burn the session books, some of which were destroyed. Two troops of the Ayrshire Cavalry were lying here at the time; and every day expresses arrived from different quarters for troops to keep down riots and quell disorders. The Gentlemen Volunteers were ordered to wear their side arms when they went out, and a captain's guard was mounted every day in the Council Room. This was glorious work for the gourmonds; an abundant supply of pies and porter, bread and cheese, &c., being daily provided. The bill for meat and drink in the guard house, for ten days, amounted to upwards of a hundred and sixty pounds! Whilst these doings were going on in this quarter, some parishes in the Highlands had become extremely outrageous: they became organized into regular bands, under the guidance of one Cameron, and opposed the cavalry. The Auchtergaven company of volunteers had been marched up to Blair Castle, and a troop of light horse went up express above Dunkeld, their great object was to seize Cameron, who had hitherto baffled all attempts to secure him. Rumours went abroad that the Highlanders were up in arms, and that they had defeated the troops sent against them. The numbers of the disaffected were wonderfully magnified. One day during the prevalence of these reports, Mr Campbell, the sheriff, and Mr Patton, his clerk, were walking up the High-street, conversing together, when they met a person whom Mr Patton knew to belong to the volunteers; he told him to repair instantly to the alarm post with his arms, and to tell any of the corps he knew to do the same; but by no means to let it be known to others. In a few minutes volunteers were seen hurrying down the street from all quarters. The mystery of the affair created an intense interest. In a moment a thousand reports were afloat. The Castle of Blair was burnt to the ground; the Duke's house at Dunkeld, the whole Highlands, were in a blaze; and thousands of the Highlanders were on their march for the low country, to sweep every thing before them. Many of the volunteers' ladies naturally demurred sadly at allowing their spouses to depart on such a

desperate expedition as this was represented to be. At this juncture there were many sad adieus, in the sincere belief that cold steel was to end the business. Both battalions, however, were soon on the ground; and each man was supplied with ten rounds of ball cartridge: when all was ready, they moved off in double quick time up George-street.—It was instantly surmised that Dunkeld was their place of destination; and the worst alarms were confirmed. A laughable incident occurred during the march down Charlotte-street; Mr Glass, a tailor by trade, and a member of the corps, had turned out amongst the rest: Mrs Glass, however, had become somewhat jealous of this feasting and marching, as tending to weaken the tailor's allegiance to her authority; pushing her way through the crowd, she succeeded, after some unavailing efforts on his part to escape, in seizing him by the cuff of the neck. Taking the gun from him, she dragged him from the ranks, and bestowing some hearty proofs of her sincerity, fairly drove him home before her.

The march of the two corps was continued up by the Barracks, beyond which they were ordered to halt for a few minutes. A party of dragoons was seen coming down the road, surrounding a carriage and four. They were allowed to pass, and the volunteers wheeled round and brought up the rear. The carriage drew up at the Jail, and two prisoners were safely lodged; a strong guard was mounted in the Council Room; four sentinels were posted at the jail door, and four at the back of the prison; and at night four were posted on the bridge, and four at the foot of Charlotte-street. The secret was now out. Cameron and his confederate had been apprehended, after a stout resistance by the highlanders, who followed the party of dragoons with the prisoners to the Boat of Inver, attempting to rescue them. The sheriff had been on the spot, and posted down to have a sufficient force in readiness to meet any contingencies.—During the night the most alarming rumours were afloat;—the highlanders were to be down in great force; the guards were doubled, and patrols went round every half hour; but no enemy appeared. Next day the prisoners were taken from the jail, to be examined in the Council Room; when crossing the head of the Council Room stairs, Cameron bolted down the stairs, and gave his keepers the slip; he ran, and they ran, and every one ran, until he got down a back entry, and into a house in the Castle-gable. He was traced to the house, which was diligently searched, and the very chest removed in which he was shut up and almost suffocated. He remained concealed about the house until night, when, disguised as much as possible, he set out for Edinburgh. By the time he arrived there, notice had been received of his escape, and messengers were in quest of him. He took a seat in the Glasgow coach;

one of his fellow passengers was a Mr Williamson, a messenger, proceeding to Glasgow in search of him. Cameron, however, was fortunate enough to escape detection.

During the time the Gentlemen Volunteers were embodied, there were various changes made in the system; amongst others, quarterly inspections were ordered before they could draw their pay. On these occasions the officers at first treated the inspecting officer with a dinner at their own private expense: but this being found to be an intolerable burden, it was resolved to take the expense from the funds of the corps. This led to grumbling among the beef-eaters, and those who could not bear the idea of so many good things going past them. To put an end to which, at a general meeting, the Colonel proposed that the whole corps should have a public dinner on these occasions, at the expence of the funds. This was hailed with universal satisfaction; and it was resolved that each company should dine in a house of its own choosing.

These dinners gave rise to many curious circumstances, that might fill a volume. Let some small specimens be offered, to show how some of these worthies conducted themselves: In one company, three notable knights of the trencher were seated together; they had taken good care to help themselves to the choicest bits; and those seated near them, aware of their eating propensities, took very good care to help them liberally. Their plates were no sooner loaded, than the contents disappeared, as if by magic; their knives and forks went like a drummer's sticks, when beating double-quick time; roast beef, veal, lamb, pies, came all alike, and vanished alike quickly. Some of the wags found means to get an infusion of jallop into the last pudding set before them. Each of them had a pint of wine and two bottles of toddy, which they found no difficulty in dispatching. In a short time, besides, one of them cabbaged a bottle of wine from the waiters. This, too, with a considerable quantity of toddy from some of their neighbours, all went with inconceivable rapidity. But lo, and behold the effects of the jallop! One of them was sent for to serve some ladies in his shop with goods. Alas, alas! the poor volunteer became a voluntary, or rather an *in*-voluntary, in more ways than one. He was obliged to take flight, and leave the ladies to choose their goods at their pleasure. He was advised by some of his friends, who had been watching for the sport, to get into the Tay, as the only means of being purified. He accordingly jumped into the river, to the great amusement of the bye-standers. The other two were not so fortunate. They could not reach the door; they, however, reached the floor, where they lay in their glory. One of them was carried home in a barrow; the other lay until late, in the midst of every thing

filthy. One gentleman, remarkable for his amiable temper when sober, stripped to fight with any body or every body, and required two men to hold him. Some were singing without any body to listen to them; others who had no voice, were drumming with their hands and feet.

In another company in the Salutation inn, universal uproar reigned. A stout brawny son of Vulcan had quarrelled with a celebrated auctioneer, who had a very high opinion of his fine person. To avoid being knocked down below value, by the thundering fist of this notable son of Vulcan, he made his exit by the window of the second storey—no bad leap. Here was no room for observation; besides, there was an imminent risk of being involved in a quarrel.

In the Council Room many of the company had retired before madness had become universal. Of those who remained, one party was gathered round a gentleman, who at that time ranked high among our respectables. He was amusing the company by singing inflammatory, immoral songs; the more surprising, as he was a man advanced in years, and was the father of a numerous family. The other party were at the lower end of the table, and much of their procedure was in pantomime. One young gentleman was conveyed away by a party; having found a gig on the street on their way home, they put him into it, and after parading the streets with him, hurled him to the door of Robie Aitkin, the hangman, where they left him fast asleep, and where he was found in the morning in the same situation.

In the George inn confusion was twice confused. The toddy and other liquids were running out below the room door. In one corner of the room a Gentleman Volunteer was lying on the floor, quite mute; in the bight of his arm lay the supper he had just eaten. On some chairs there was stretched another, laid out as if for the grave, wrapped in a table cloth. The captain was in the act of making a speech, but he might as well have addressed the winds. All were speaking; and the noise resembled that of a school taught in the old fashion, where all the children were reading and bawling aloud. Determined, however, to make himself heard, he got upon the top of the table, and flourishing his drawn sword, bawled out at the top of his lungs for silence; but, alas! he was now a captain without command; and he found himself under the necessity of delivering his fine oration, without having even the pleasure of hearing himself. Like the companies in the other rooms, there was a great deal of mute manœuvres, for all the noise that was made. Some of them were far beyond speaking. Dancing and singing were carried on in dumb show in a most ridiculous manner. Some of them attempted to treat the

visitors to a glass, but the bottles were corked, although they could not discover so; others, although they got the bottle, could not see the glass. However poorly the drill was attended on common occasions, the inspection was sure to command a grand turn-out. All the beef-eaters were there, although not present between the feasts.

This corps, during the period they were embodied, drew from Government about L.2,200 a year. It had been often proposed to form a fund for the relief of decayed members and their widows, which, if they had done, might have amounted before they were reduced, to above L.80,000; but this was uniformly opposed by a set of tippling gentlemen and needy tradesmen, who, for the sake of the belly, sacrificed every thing; and what was rather singular, a great number of these creatures were so reduced before the corps was paid off, as to petition the committee of management for a few guineas in charity. Their funds were sported away in a most shameful manner. A young man coming to be a shopkeeper or a clerk, was admitted a member, and had a full suit of clothing, which cost the corps about six guineas, and perhaps was off in a few months. Any person that did a job for them charged an enormous price. Each of these dinners cost the companies about L.25 a piece; and what with band, and dinners, and pipe allowance, would amount to L.250 every three months. Of all the money drawn, when they came to be reduced there was only about £700 left, which was devoted to the building of the Seminaries. Of this corps, which was composed of fine young men in general, very few are at this time alive. Of all the officers there are only two. There is no doubt that the Volunteers came forward with a good intention, but it proved to have a very bad moral effect. Their frequent meetings to drill was the cause of much tippling. When they met for drill, gills were drank before they assembled; when the long roll was beat for falling in, they were to be seen issuing from the various public houses in the vicinity of the parade; and when they returned from drill, all those who liked a glass adjourned to a tavern, where they spent the evening; and in the morning they required a *cauter* to put them to rights.

The Gentlemen Yeomanry felt the effects of this most severely. Their field-days were always on the Fridays, and Lord Kinnoull frequently gave them a dinner; but this did not end the day. When once on the fuddle there was no bounds to their folly, which often led to much unhappy family discord. Many laughable circumstances took place with these gentlemen farmers. On one occasion a big jolly farmer went into a house in the Skinnergate, at the sign of "Six bottles,"—well known for a certain description of character. Here he became so glorious, that in going home, he was found mounted on his horse, with his face

looking towards the tail ; his helmet the back end before, with a bunch of ribbons. In this plight he was led along the bridge, and through Bridgend, with a gay assemblage.

When the volunteers were paid off, and the arms and stores sent to London, the arms of a whole company, amounting to sixty stand, and upwards of forty barrels of gunpowder, were smuggled away, of which Government never got account.

On the commencement of hostilities the second time, a corp of volunteers was again raised, under Colonel Marshall, of young tradesmen, who drew pay. They had two drills a week—but they had each season fourteen days permanent drill, frequently at Stirling or elsewhere, where the officers and many of the men had droll manœuvres ; but these volunteers were superseded by the Local Militia. Perthshire had four of these corps, consisting of 1200 men each, besides a vast number enrolled throughout the county as pikemen, pioneers, and drivers of cattle. The corps of the eastern district was commanded by Colonel Hay of Seggieden ; the central, by Sir A. Muir Mackenzie ; the Highland district, by Colonel Butter of Fascally ; and the western, by Sir Patrick Murray of Ochertyre. A company of artillery was embodied in Perth, under Captain Young of Bellwood, consisting of 80 men, with a complement of officers for four guns ; two of these guns were got from Government, and two six pounders were cast at St John's foundry, from a number of small guns got at Dunkeld. This company was styled the " Kinnoull Rock Artillery," and frequently " Captain Young's Christian Horse," from their dragging the guns. At a dinner given by the captain, they were entertained by songs, composed for the occasion by some members of the corps. To shew the spirit of the times, the following song is given, composed and sung by Lieutenant M'Vicar, to the tune of " Johnny Cope :"—

THE PERTH VOLUNTEERS.

Hey, Volunteers, are ye waken yet ?
Ho, jolly lads, are ye ready yet ?
Are ye up, are ye drest ?—will you all do your best,
To fight Bonaparte in the morning ?

Now, brave Volunteers, be it day, be it night,
When the signal is given that the French are in sight,
You must haste with your brethren in arms to unite,
To fight Bonaparte in the morning.

Then our brave Captain Young shall foremost be seen,
To lead on the corps and to fight for renown ;
To protect all that's dear, from the cot to the crown ;
And we'll beat Bonaparte in the morning.

Hey, Johnny Smith, are ye waken yet ?
 Ho, Davie Fife, are ye ready yet ?*
 Your knapsacks fill—gie your canteens a gill,
 And we'll beat Bonaparte in the morning.

And should the usurper in truth reach our shore,
 We quickly shall march, and our cannon shall roar ;
 And we'll soon let him see we have grape shot in store,
 To salute Bonaparte in the morning.

And when by the favour of heaven on our arms,
 We have conquered our foes, and are freed from alarms,
 With joy we'll return to our wives and our bairns,
 When we've beat Bonaparte in the morning.

Then each jolly lad shall be met by his lass,
 With a smile on her cheek, and a joyful caress ;
 And then shall the corps drink a full flowing glass,
 In remembrance of that glorious morning.

And now when we've met let us drink to our King,
 May his life be prolonged, may he happily reign,
 May he always command an artillery train,
 Fit to guard all our rights night and morning.

Let us drink to his Grace, † the patron of our train,
 And to Fenwick, ‡ from whom all our knowledge we gain,
 To his men who assist and take so much pains
 To instruct us at drill in the morning.

This corps was drilled by the captain of the artillery stationed here, and his men, and soon became wonderfully expert in working the guns. They made a splendid appearance on general field days, when the different battalions were assembled on permanent duty. One season, the Edinburgh volunteer artillery, consisting of eight guns, came over to join the different corps assembled here ; and these, with the regular artillery, and the Kinnoull Rock company united, made a splendid appearance.

Besides these different corps, there was a company of sharpshooters enrolled under Provost Caw ; but as they never made their appearance, they were styled " Captain Caw's Invisible Riflemen." The four battalions of local militia, with the regular and supplementary militia, upwards of 1200 strong, and yeomanry and artillery, formed altogether a very strong force. The ballot for the militia came to be a very heavy burden upon young men, to which was added a ballot for the army of reserve, which made an intolerable burden. Bounties rose amazingly high ; so much as L.70 in some instances being paid for a substitute, and many poor men

* Two serjeants in the corps.—† The Duke of Athole.

‡ Captain of Artillery in Perth.

were forced to sell the blankets from their beds to pay for protection from the ballot. Perth being found such an excellent military station, it was resolved to fit up Gowrie-house as a barracks for foot soldiers, as the horse barracks only held the same number of men above, as horses below. Gowrie-house was taken from the Board of Ordnance, and a new roof put upon the building. The different halls were filled with beds, and all things put in readiness for the troops, when it was discovered that the building was insecure and dangerous. Means were found to get it condemned as unsafe; the commanding officer of the regiment then here declared that he would not risk his men in it. But the plain truth was, the building had stood for centuries, and would have stood for ages to come. The only deficiency that could be found was in the lintel of the main entrance, which was broken at one end, and could have been replaced in four hours' time: beside this, there was neither crack nor flaw about the whole building; this fine piece of antiquity was thus sacrificed to serve a particular purpose. The whole transaction was one of the most shameful ever done in Perth. It had been for many years in agitation to build a new Jail and a County hall; and it being considered that the ground on which Gowrie-house stood would be the only fit situation for that purpose, terms were entered into for the purchase: the result was, that the town of Perth purchased the ground on which the Depot now stands, from the Moncrieff family, and gave it to Government for Gowrie-house. We have now a paltry thing of a jail, unworthy of the County, instead of the old venerable pile, which formed one of the principal ornaments of Perth.

THE DEPOT.

About the year 1810, it was resolved to build the Depot for French prisoners. As a numerous garrison would be required here, the horse barracks were fitted up for infantry; the stables were converted into rooms; and the whole were filled with double beds, one above the other, in a very crowded state—which rendered it unhealthy, and filled the place with bugs and fleas to such an extent that they were uninhabitable. The Depot was pushed forward at an immense expense. Extensive as it appears above, there is little less workmanship under ground. It was commenced in the fall of the year, and carried on during a severe winter in spite of every obstacle; fires were used to thaw the lime, and large coverings of straw to preserve the hewn stones from the frost.—Stone quarries were opened in several quarters, and roads made from them at a vast expense: upwards of 1500 hands were employed about the work, besides an immense number of horses and carts. By the

month of August next year, a part of the building was ready for the reception of prisoners. The first division that arrived, consisting of 400 men, were landed from a frigate in the Tay at Dundee, and marched up through the Carse. Never was there such a turn out in Perth, as there was to witness this novel sight. On their way from Dundee, they were lodged for the night in the church of Inchtute. During the night they found means to extract the brass nails, and to purlein the green cloth from the pulpit and seats, with every other thing they could lay their hands on. This division were in pretty good condition, and had some women with them; but, in the course of the winter, great numbers arrived after the battle of Salamanca; these were landed in the Frith of Forth, and marched through Fife; the weather was dreadfully wet, and the roads bad. The poor creatures, many of them half naked, were in a miserable plight; many of them gave up on the way, and were flung into carts one above the other; and when the carts were capable of holding no more, others were tied to the back of the carts with ropes, and dragged along. The building was calculated to hold 7000, besides an hospital. One of the wards was allotted to officers who had broke their parole. This establishment, when full, was a very novel sight. There was a governor, with clerks, and a number of turnkeys; the whole walls were planted with lamps, and sentries posted at short distances on the tops of stairs, now taken down. From these a view was commanded of the areas within. It was apprehended by many, that such an increase to the population as seven thousand prisoners, and four regiments, would greatly raise the price of provisions, but this apprehension was found to be groundless. The moment the demand for these articles was known, fat cattle, grain, and in fact every thing required, were brought from a distance, and purchased on moderate terms. Cattle heads, feet, and offal, were sold to the poor on very low terms. The prisoners were allowed four hours of a market every day, at which great quantities of potatoes, cabbages, and all sorts of vegetables, were taken in and sold. In this way a number of poor individuals made a living, by selling small wares. Among other things it may be observed in passing, that this was the origin of the potato trade for the London market. Many acres had been planted in the neighbourhood for the supply of the Depot, and when the peace came, they were disappointed of a market by the release of the prisoners. Some of the farmers thought of trying the London market, with a view of getting quit of them, and found that the advanced price there obtained, more than covered the expense of freight.

To the daily market of the prisoners all were admitted, provided they carried no contraband articles. Potatoes, vegetables of all kinds, bread, soap,

tobacco, firewood, &c., were all admitted. Vast multitudes went daily to view the market, and buy from the prisoners their toys, of which they had a great variety—many of them made from the bones of their beef.—They had stands set out all round the railing of the yards, on which their wares were placed, and a great number of purchases was made every day by the numerous visitors, for which they paid high prices. The scene was altogether a novel one. Whilst a part of them were busied in selling their wares, others were engaged in the purchase of provisions and other necessaries; some of them were traversing the wards, bawling out “relie o,” which signified boiled potatoes; others were playing on the fiddle, flute, and other instruments, for halfpence; Punch’s opera, and other puppet shows were got up in fine style. Though many of them were gaining a little money by their industry, there was another class who gambled away every thing, even the clothes from their bodies; and some of them were to be seen wandering about with a bit of a blanket round them, without any other covering. Many cut their clothes into small stripes, and made them into shoes for sale; but this was one of the branches of traffic that was prohibited, and for which the purchaser, if detected by the turnkeys when searched, was made liable in a penalty. Straw plait, a manufacture then in its infancy in the country, was another article prohibited. As much as straw plait as made a bonnet was sold for four shillings, and being exceedingly neat, which made much inquired after, In this trade many one got a bite; for the straw was all made up in parcels, and smuggled into their pockets for fear of detection. The following is an instance of the manner in which they practised their deceptions: An unsuspecting man having been induced by his wife to purchase a quantity of straw plait for a bonnet, he attended the market and soon found a merchant. He paid the money, but, lest he should be observed, he turned about his back to the seller and got the thing slipped into his hand, and then into his pocket. Away he went with his parcel, well pleased that he had escaped detection. On his way he thought he would examine his purchase, when to his astonishment he found, instead of straw plait, a bundle of shavings very neatly tied up. The man instantly returned and charged the prisoners with the deception, and insisted on getting back his money; but the man could not be seen from whom the purchase was made. Whilst hanging on to catch a glimpse of him, he was told that if he did not get away they would inform the turnkey, and get him fined for buying the article. Seeing there was no chance of getting amends, he was retiring, when one came forward, and said he would find the man and make him take the shavings back, and get the money. Pretending deep commiseration, he said he had no

change, but if he would give him sixteen shillings, he would give him a note, and take his chance of the man. The dupe was simple enough to give the money and take the note, thinking himself well off to get quit of his purchase—but to his mortification he found the note to be a well executed forgery on the Perth Bank. Enraged at his own simplicity, he again returned in the hope of finding the fellow who deceived him, but in vain. He was advised to apply to the governor, who, when any misbehaved, shut up the market of that ward for a certain time, as a punishment—but the dread of being informed on for buying plait prevented him, and he lost both money and straw. When this establishment was full, and the four regiments in the garrison, a large sum of money was put into circulation,—not less than L.400 a day. Great expense had been incurred to get a supply of water for the place : pipes were laid through Magdalene farm, and the hill above, and the water collected into a reservoir, and thence conducted into a cistern within the buildings ; but the supply being found inadequate to the demand, pipes were laid across the Cow Inch to the Tay, and an engine erected on the lade which raised the water into the Depot.

After the prisoners went away, it was intended to have a general military store here. The whole prison was filled with clothing and various articles for the army. A great number of women and boys were employed in brushing and cleaning them. To such an extent were they employed, that the value of the articles would soon have been paid for by their keeping. This scheme was therefore given up, and the stores sent back to London.

The prison has since been either empty, or let for granaries, for which it is admirably adapted ; but it might be far better occupied as a national bridewell—where convicted felons, instead of being sent out of the country at so great an expence, could be employed in labour to maintain themselves. The governor, clerks, and turnkeys were all discharged after the peace, and a new governor, at a small salary, and three keepers, were appointed ; two of these men have since been discharged—and the present establishment consists of the governor and one man. In such a place as this, prisoners could be properly classified ; the males kept from the females ; and the old hardened offender separated from the young in crime. Here they might be employed, with men of respectable character distributed amongst them, to take charge and work along with them. This would have a better effect than a hundred task masters with the whip over them. Besides, supported by their labour, they might be instructed, and come out at the expiry of their terms with a small sum to set them a going again in the world, better men than when they went in.