



LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. V. HAMILTON-CAMPBELL,
COMMANDING AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

A HISTORY
OF THE
AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CAVALRY

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P R E F A C E.

THESE notes have been put together in compliance with a natural desire on the part of many Ayrshire Yeomen to know something of the previous history of the regiment in which their fathers have served, and in which their sons will in due course succeed them.

It is to be regretted that the early history of the Carrick Troop, during the closing years of last century, is so meagre : such particulars as are given were obtained by the late Captain Hunter of Hunterston, in 1856, from Quartermaster Henderson, who joined the troop in the year 1802.

Among the many friends to whom thanks are due for information and assistance given, the first place must be assigned to the late Captain Hunter, without whose invaluable orderly-book this history would have been very much less consecutive than it is. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Hunter for the great interest she has taken in this work ; to Major John Lorn Stewart of Coll, late Adjutant, who suggested the idea of giving

permanency to these records, and who formed a valuable nucleus of notes; to Mr. D. Murray Lyon, author of *Ayr in the Olden Time*; and to many old yeomen (among whom may be particularised Mr. D. Cunningham, Chapelton), who have ransacked the stores of their memories with results which are full of local interest.

The work which has been given the Ayrshire Yeomanry to do in the past has always been performed in such a manner as to obtain the approbation of those competent to judge. It is true that the days of rioting and disaffection have passed away—haply never to return—but there is still work, and more congenial work, for Yeomen to accomplish, in quietly but earnestly preparing themselves so that they may be able to render efficient service to their country in her hour of need, should that hour ever come.

Under their experienced and justly popular commander, *esprit de corps* has never been stronger than it is at present; and that this spirit may survive and flourish, not only in this particular regiment, but in every branch of the Reserve Forces, must be the heartfelt desire of all who wish well to their native land.

W. S. C.

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CHAPTER I.

1793—1819.

“MR. BULLER.—By what other means can the martial spirit of a people be so invigorated, without, at the same time, being brutalised by any of that ferocity which almost always belongs perhaps to your regular troopers whose duty and delight is in foreign service?”

“SHEPHERD.—Then, sir, think what an effek it had upon the women folk? The wife lookin’ on ‘our John,’ wi’ his formidable fur cap, and braw regimentals on, and wi’ swurd by his side, and naething wantin’ but mustashies to mak him an even-doon reg’lar dragon, wou’d as sune hae taen their ain bill by the horns as hae dreamed o’ hen-peckin’ sic a fire-eater:—the lasses, whan they saw their sweethearts chargin’ on the Hair-laugh Moss, as the leevin whirlwund passed by, felt, ilka ane o’ them, that the nicht afore, perhaps, her mou had been preed by a hero, wha, if the beacons bleezed, wou’d return to her arms, after havin’ driven the French, wi’ Bonaparte at their head, intil the sea.”—*Noctes Ambrosianæ*.

WHEN the French Convention declared war against Great Britain in 1793, the nation was quite ready to join issue with them. The horrid massacres of the Revolution, culminating in the brutal murders of an amiable king and his gentle consort, had appalled the civilised world; and the handsome offer of the French Minister of Marine, to send over fifty thousand “caps of liberty” to secure for us the same desirable state of matters which obtained with them, had the effect of rousing Parliament and people to take the most active measures for resisting those who, under the sacred name of Liberty, were really urging a crusade against law, order, and religion. Through a short-sighted policy, our army and navy had been

greatly reduced at the close of the American War, and the war establishment of Britain in 1792 was unprecedentedly low. This circumstance, besides its undoubted influence upon the conduct and prolongation of the war, also made it necessary that steps should be taken towards the formation of an efficient reserve for protection against invasion. Accordingly, to this end, the English Militia was embodied; regiments of Fencibles were everywhere raised; and a new force—the Yeomanry Cavalry—was called into existence. In these patriotic and defensive measures the county of Ayr was not behindhand: a regiment of volunteer infantry, called the West Lowland Fencibles, was enrolled, under the command of Colonel Montgomerie of Coilsfield, in 1793; and in the same year, a troop of Yeomanry—the nucleus of the present gallant and popular regiment—was raised in the district of Carrick, by Archibald, Lord Kennedy, afterwards Earl of Cassillis. A regiment of horse—the Ayrshire Fencible Cavalry—was also raised by Colonel Andrew Dunlop.

To return to the yeomen: the troop numbered thirty men, and was composed of substantial Carrick farmers, all well mounted. A few men from the neighbourhood of Dalrymple were taken in, but the troop was distinctly a Carrick one. They were dressed in scarlet jackets cut very short, with one row of white buttons in front, and buckskin breeches and jack-boots; the head-dress was a helmet with fur and white feathers, and for drill order, instead of buckskins, grey overalls were worn.

No assembly for permanent duty took place till the beginning of the present century, Lord Cassillis drilling them himself privately, as he expressed it, “like the very mischief.” His Lordship, however, appears to have grown tired of drilling so energetically, for, in 1801, he wished the troop to disband themselves; but the troop thought otherwise, and declined to

be blotted out. Under these circumstances, Lord Cassillis endeavoured, but without success, to induce Lord Montgomerie to take the command; and, ultimately, the troop fell to Richard Alexander Oswald of Auchincruive.

In April 1802, after the definitive treaty of peace, his Majesty signified his desire to avail himself of such of the yeomanry and volunteer cavalry as chose to continue their services. Accordingly, in September following, Captain-Commandant Oswald re-enrolled the members of the troop, the strength being now increased from thirty to forty-eight, and a greater number of parishes being represented. The uniform was rather different from that of the old corps: the scarlet jacket was replaced by a blue sort of coatee, with three rows of buttons in front, the facings being yellow and the lace white; the boots and breeches, however, were still retained, and the men rode in plain, common saddles, with the cloak folded flat and strapped over the valise. During 1802 the first assembly for permanent duty took place at Ayr, on which occasion each man received three shillings and fourpence a day of pay. Various privileges were also accorded to the yeomanry and volunteer cavalry who continued their services: they were exempted from the horse tax, from tolls when going to and returning from exercise, from the militia service, and from the hair-powder duty. The horse tax, which was formerly forty shillings, and latterly ten shillings and sixpence, has only recently been abolished.

In 1803 two additional troops were raised, viz., the second or Cumnock troop, by Boswell of Auchinleck, and the third or Ayr troop by Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald; each of the troops, including officers, numbering forty-eight. These additional troops were called into existence in view of the threatened invasion by the army of the French Republic,—a prospect which the Justices of the Peace, at a Quarter-Sessions held at

Ayr on 25th October, deemed so imminent that they ordered the different clergymen to request the farmers, from the pulpit, to thresh out and convert into meal as much of their corn as possible, and to store it in barrels, so that it might be easily carried off, and an abundant supply of food be insured. The regiment, which, from a return made to Parliament on 9th December 1803, appears to have numbered one hundred and forty men, now assumed the title of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry. They were quartered at Ayr for permanent duty in October, and again in December 1803: on the latter occasion they were inspected by Colonel Douglas, when they acquitted themselves, in the words of the county newspaper (the *Ayr Advertiser*), "in a style that procured them the warmest eulogiums from the inspecting officer, and afforded the most gratifying entertainment to a numerous body of spectators. The regularity of their marching, the accuracy and rapidity of their wheelings, the pointedness of their formations, the bold velocity of their charges, and their expertness in the sword-exercise, while they called forth unbounded praise, naturally suggested what may be expected from discipline so superior and example so highly respectable."

In January 1804, orders were received by the Yeomanry and Ayr Rifle Corps to hold themselves in readiness to march immediately upon the appearance of an enemy on any part of the coast; biscuit was accordingly ordered to be baked to supply each man with bread for so many days, and signal-posts were erected in every parish for the members of the various armed associations to repair to on the alarm being given.

In May following, the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry received orders to occupy Hamilton Barracks, they having previously given proof of their patriotism by volunteering to serve in any part of the United Kingdom. While at Hamilton, where they

remained for fifteen days, the regiment was inspected by General Wemyss, and received from that discerning officer very flattering compliments on their proficiency in the cavalry exercise.

Not long after their return to the county, another order from the War Department, to march to the vicinity of Glasgow, met with prompt obedience, and the regiment aided in suppressing a mutiny of recruits for the Canadian Fencible regiment, who had refused to embark. No man was absent on this occasion but those who, from sickness, were unable to attend; and many who happened to be out of the county at the time, on receiving intelligence that the corps had marched, posted on to join their comrades. Thereafter the regiment was stationed for some time at Hamilton, and while there they remained constantly on the alert, and ready to move to any quarter where their services might be required.

In June 1805, Lieutenant-Colonel Oswald was presented on parade with a very handsome sabre from the non-commissioned officers and privates of the corps. The presentation was made by one of the members of the regiment in the following words:—

“COLONEL OSWALD,—Having been called upon by my companions-in-arms, to-day, to express to you the sense they entertain of your conduct both as an officer and as a gentleman, and although I am but ill-qualified for the task, yet I acknowledge I am proud of the honour which their kindness has imposed upon me. Duty to our king and love for our country at first induced us to leave our ordinary avocations and to assume this garb; and when I tell you that I feel happy in being placed under your command, I speak the sentiments with which every man in the corps is inspired. At present we have no opportunity of giving you a more convincing proof of our regard than by presenting you with this sabre. Receive then, sir, this as a mark of the united approbation, attachment, and esteem of the non-commissioned officers and privates

of your Ayrshire Regiment of Yeomanry Cavalry. While we continue in war, we are convinced it could not have been placed in hands more ready to unsheath it in our country's defence; and should the period ever arrive when our more efficient services shall be demanded, we feel confident that our willingness to follow will only be surpassed by your eagerness to lead us to victory and to honour. And when peace, sweet peace, shall again visit our land,—when we shall return to our agricultural pursuits, and beat our swords into ploughshares,—our greatest happiness will be to see yours hung up in the hall of your ancestors, as a token of the respect in which the corps have held you as their commanding officer. May you live long to be a blessing to your friends and to your country."

To this Colonel Oswald replied as follows:—

"GENTLEMEN,—I receive with great pleasure this mark of your esteem and attachment. The steady attendance and unre-mitted attention of every individual in the corps, afford the best proof of the honourable motives which induced you, gentlemen, to step forward in the situation in which you now stand, and of the effectual service your country may with confidence expect from you, should circumstances occur to render it necessary to call for them. To your own exertions, and the assistance I have met with from the officers of the corps, I owe the approbation you have honoured me with; and I beg you will believe me, that while I feel proud of the distinguished mark of it you have this day bestowed on me, I shall at all times feel the highest interest in the prosperity of the corps."

On 30th October of the same year (1805), the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, in brigade with the Riflemen and 1st Regiment of Volunteers, were reviewed on the race-course by that distinguished soldier, General the Earl of Moira, Commander of the Forces in Scotland. That the county regiments acquitted themselves with credit on the occasion, may be gathered from the following General and Brigade Orders:—

“GENERAL ORDERS.

“Lord Moira requests Brigadier-General Mackenzie to express, in his name, to the troops reviewed this day, the highest approbation of their state of discipline. The corps are respectively in perfect condition for their several styles of service; and Lord Moira begs both officers and men to accept his thanks for that laudable attention which has been evidently exerted in attaining so distinguished a degree of proficiency.”

“BRIGADE ORDERS.

“Brigadier-General Mackenzie has much satisfaction in communicating to the regiments reviewed this day, the great praise bestowed on their conduct by General the Earl of Moira. He cannot, however, allow this opportunity to pass without expressing his high gratification that, each time the corps under his command assemble on permanent duty, they not only improve in discipline, but continue to possess that zeal and anxiety for the good of their country which they have hitherto had in so eminent a degree.”

As a proof of the strength of the Yeomanry and Volunteer Force in Scotland at this time, it may be mentioned that a landing of the enemy in the south of England being expected, the Earl of Moira, as Commander of the Forces in Scotland, was written to by His Royal Highness the Duke of York, to know with what force as a corps of reserve and within what time he could march to Northampton. His Lordship replied that on the third day after receiving His Royal Highness's summons he would cross the Border with two columns of ten thousand each, equipped not as a corps of reserve, but as a regular army fit for the field, and in this calculation not one regular battalion was included.¹

The earliest regimental order which is preserved is by

¹ Speech by the Marquis of Hastings (Earl of Moira) at a public dinner held in his honour at Ayr in 1825.

Colonel Oswald, and bears date 18th June 1807. It is in the following terms:—

“The Ayrshire Corps of Yeomanry Cavalry will meet on Monday next, the 25th instant, on the Green at Ayr, at half-past eleven o'clock, in marching order, for the purpose of an inspection of arms and appointments. As a considerable time has elapsed since the corps has been called out, and the present meeting is appointed in order to making the necessary arrangements previous to the corps being called out on permanent duty, the commanding officer expects that every individual will be punctual in his attendance, and that any expressly prevented in their attendance will report themselves to the non-commissioned officer of their respective troops. The commanding officer expects to find the arms and accoutrements in the greatest order. The troops will be dismissed after inspection, the present meeting being only preparatory; at the same time, a full and punctual attendance is requested.”

When assembled on permanent duty at Ayr, the non-commissioned officers and privates of the corps were quartered in the town, the Lord-Lieutenant having previously issued a warrant to the Magistrates and Justices of the Peace, requiring them to provide billets. The hour for turning out in the morning was generally an early one, as, on account of the sands being used as a drill ground, the state of the tide required to be taken into consideration. It was the rule, rather than the exception, for the trumpet to sound to “Boots and Saddles” at a quarter before five A.M., and at a quarter past five, the troops assembled at their private parade grounds, viz., the right troop in the Sandgate, the centre troop in the Newton Street, and the left troop at the Old Bridge End. After the usual preliminaries, a move was made to the sands, where a number of hours were spent in evolutions, and the day's work concluded with a foot parade in the afternoon, to which the men turned out in clean white pantaloons. Nothing of much interest in the

history of the regiment took place for some years ; the usual assemblies and inspections going on with regularity, but being devoid of incident.

In the year 1816 the Lord-Lieutenant has occasion to write as follows to the commanding officer in reference to certain riotous proceedings which had taken place at Ayr :—

“ EGLINTON CASTLE, 13th June 1816.

“ SIR,—It having been represented to me by the Provost of Ayr that a serious riot had taken place there last night, and that the miller's house and mills were destroyed, and that great danger is apprehended, and that more mischief is intended, I have to desire that you will immediately give directions that the Yeomanry Cavalry under your command may be ready to assemble on the shortest notice, and that you will put yourself under the orders of the Provost and Magistrates, to act as they shall direct, until further orders, and for which this shall be your warrant.—I am, etc.,
EGLINTON.”

Accordingly, Captain Alexander Gairdner, who was temporarily in command, communicated with the authorities at Ayr, and received orders to assemble his men at once. No time was lost, and at one o'clock on the morning of the following day, the corps mustered at Ayr, where they remained on duty for eight days.

The following communication to the commanding officer, with reference to the conduct of the corps, was entered in the regimental Orderly Book, at the request of the Magistracy :—

“ The Provost and Magistrates request that you, sir, officers, non-commissioned officers, and gentlemen of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, will accept their most cordial thanks for the very cheerful and prompt manner in which they assembled and lent their aid in suppressing the alarming and disgraceful riots which have lately taken place here, for which also the thanks of the respectable part of the community are most justly due to them,

and their services are fully appreciated ; and they have no doubt that the corps will continue to execute any orders they may receive for maintaining public tranquillity."

The Provost (William Cowan) also wrote to the commanding officer in the following terms :—

" My Lord Eglinton, by his orders dated the 13th current, was pleased to put you and the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry under my command until further orders. I have only to say to you that I feel happy his Lordship did me that honour, because, in so doing, I am persuaded you have saved *much* property and probably some lives. Your uniform quietness and good conduct in quarters, and the alacrity with which you went upon duty, have not escaped me, and I am persuaded, had more active service been required of you than what I had occasion to call upon you for, you would have equally well discharged your duty. The thanks of the Magistrates you have already received ; their good wishes and those of the whole *orderly* part of society attend you. I now give you leave to depart to your homes, and for the present discharge you from further attendance on permanent duty."

A change now took place in the command of the regiment. After fifteen years' service, in the course of which he succeeded in transforming the Yeomanry from a single troop into a well drilled and well disciplined regiment, Colonel Oswald retired, and was succeeded by Major Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck, whose commission as Lieutenant-Colonel was dated 14th June 1816.

In 1817, the fourth or Galston troop was raised by Captain Fairlie ; and not only was this addition made to the original corps as it stood, but a second regiment of Yeomanry was formed. It was in the face of great political excitement, and in response to the call of Government, that the 2d or Cunningham and Cumnock regiment sprang into existence. The original strength was four troops of fifty men each, viz.,

the first or Cumnock troop; the second or Kilmarnock troop; the third or Irvine troop; and the fourth or Loudoun troop. A fifth troop was afterwards raised, in 1820, by Claud Alexander, of Ballochmyle, and was known as the Ballochmyle troop. William Houison Craufurd, of Craufurdland, was the first Major-Commandant, and he was succeeded, in 1819, by John Ferrier Hamilton of Cairnhill. The members of this regiment were dressed in blue jackets, with white facings; they had white overalls for ordinary use, and, for best, bluish grey overalls, with a white stripe, were worn. The head covering for review order was a ponderous helmet, weighing little short of seven pounds, while for field drill order, a blue bonnet with a white rim and tuft was used; the belts were white, and they were armed with swords and pistols.

The first annual muster for permanent duty was held at Irvine in November 1817—a month which was rendered memorable from the circumstance that on the evening of Sunday the 16th, a tremendous thunderstorm burst over that part of Ayrshire; one of the yeomen, while visiting his stable, was struck by the lightning, and two of the horses in the stable were killed. After this year the regiment generally drilled at Ayr, but in 1824 their headquarters were permanently established at Kilmarnock, and a park was obtained in the vicinity of that town, which, after being drained and levelled, was used for purposes of drill. The establishment of a second regiment of yeomanry made it necessary that some change should take place in the designation of the old corps. Accordingly, in August 1818, Lord Eglinton wrote to Colonel Boswell, instructing him to denominate the corps under his command as the First Corps of Ayrshire Yeomanry. Nicknames or by-names also distinguished each of these gallant regiments; the *First* rejoicing in the distinctive appellation of the “Yellowyeldrins,” and the *Second* glorying in the proud title of the

“Peesweeps.” These names no doubt originated in allusion to the colours of the facings, which were respectively yellow and white.

Under their able and experienced commanders, both corps attained to a high state of efficiency, and were well qualified to take an active part in the somewhat critical times which were already throwing their sinister shadows over our beloved land.

CHAPTER II.

THE RADICAL YEARS, 1819—1820.

“ Success to each Briton wha fearlessly rose
To defend freedom’s birthplace frae rebels an’ foes,
Wi’ their sharp pikes an’ radical clegs.
May they ne’er lose the freedom they rose to defend,
May peace and content spread their wings o’er the land ;
An’ may ilk trait’rous chiel wha rebellion wad breed,
Get a prog in the guts, an’ a skelp on the head,
Wi’ a sharp pike an’ a radical cleg.”

Sharp Pikes and Radical Clegs, by JOHN GOLDIE.

FOR some years previous to 1819, a feeling of discontent had been gradually gaining ground among the operatives of the west of Scotland. The cause is not far to seek. The close of the war, and the consequent fall in prices, together with the deficient harvest of 1816, had combined to produce stagnation in trade, and considerable distress in Glasgow and the other manufacturing towns of the west. This unhappy opportunity was seized upon by political adventurers, who laid down the specious doctrine that reform in the representation of the people was the panacea for every evil.¹ To this end mass meetings were continually being held throughout the autumn

¹ “ Sic great distress for want o’ trade,
Sae lang among the spiders,
Maks them too easily misled
By base seditious leaders.”

*Epistle to J. G. (a yeoman), by CHARLES LOCKHART
of Dundonald, 1821.*

of 1819, and reference is made to one of these meetings in the following letter from the Lord-Lieutenant:—

“EGLINTON CASTLE, 14th November 1819.

“SIR,—Although I do not conceive that there is actual danger of riot or disturbance at what they call a county meeting of the radicals which is to be held in a field adjacent to Kilmarnock on Saturday next, the 20th instant, yet I think it necessary to be prepared; you will, therefore, be pleased to give directions to the first corps of Yeomanry Cavalry under your command to be ready to turn out at a moment’s warning, and if called out, that they will assemble at Mauchline, to remain there till farther orders.—I have, etc. etc.,
EGLINTON.”

“Lieut.-Col. Boswell, 1st A. Y. C.”

The meeting, however, which was largely attended, came off without violence save that of language, and the Yeomanry were not called upon to interfere.

It now became necessary for Colonel Boswell to attend to his parliamentary duties, and accordingly he left the regiment in charge of Major Robert Crawford of Newfield, in terms of the following order:—

“AUCHINLECK, November 17, 1819.

“The duties of Parliament render it absolutely necessary for the commanding officer to absent himself for a short time, and he trusts that he may thus aid in the adoption of measures which will tend to put down the disaffected, and render the exertions of this respectable corps unnecessary, or, if necessary, more effectual. He leaves the corps under the command of an experienced officer, who has faced the enemies of his country in their proudest day, and who is now too well known to the commanding officer and to every member of the corps to leave anything farther to wish than to be under his command. The duties which the corps has to perform, if called upon to perform them, are the most useful, the most honourable, and the most sacred that man can be called upon to perform—to repress disorder, to defend property, and to pre-

serve and maintain the best blessings we possess, the laws and religion of our country.

“ God save the King, and preserve the Constitution.

“ ALEXANDER BOSWELL,
“ *Lieut-Col. Commandant, 1st A. Y. C.*”

During the month of December disturbances took place at Ayr, and the third and fourth troops were quartered there in consequence; but it was soon found that their presence could be dispensed with, and the commanding officer had the satisfaction of receiving the following letter from the Sheriff and Provost of that town:—

“ Ayr, 25th December 1819.

“ SIR,—On considering the present circumstances of the county, and particularly of this town and neighbourhood, we do not deem it necessary that any part of the corps of Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry under your command should be longer kept on permanent duty here. In dispensing with their further services, we cannot avoid expressing our warm approbation of the promptness and alacrity with which they have lately assembled here and given their repeated assistance in aid of the civil power, and declaring our opinion that their exertions have materially contributed towards preserving the peace of the county. We have the fullest confidence that, on any future emergency arising which may call for a renewal of their services, we shall experience from them the same ready and effectual assistance for securing the public tranquillity.—We have, etc. etc.,

“ A. BELL, *Sheriff-Depute of Ayrshire.*
WILLIAM COWAN, *Provost of Ayr.*

“ To the Commanding Officer, 1st A. Y. C.”

With the commencement of the new year (1820) things began to assume a more serious aspect. The discontent and disaffection which had so long been smouldering seemed on the eve of breaking out into open rebellion. The insane idea of resorting to physical force was now entertained by the dis-

tressed operatives of the larger towns, particularly Glasgow and Paisley, and this insanity was sedulously encouraged by delegates from the manufacturing centres in England. Secret drillings were now the order of the day, and it was no uncommon thing, in many of the country villages of Ayrshire, to see the worthy but deluded weavers busily engaged in sharpening their pikes while seriously discussing what part of their neighbours' property they would help themselves to in the forthcoming scramble. A general rising was soon determined upon, and on the night of the 1st of April (a characteristic date) the walls of Glasgow and Paisley were placarded with a treasonable "address to the inhabitants of Great Britain and Ireland," which was doubtless intended as a declaration of war; and in obedience to this "proclamation" some 60,000 persons in the city and district struck work. The authorities, meanwhile, very wisely resolved to assemble such a force as would not only deprive rebellion of every chance of success, but might even deter its votaries from the fatal attempt. Accordingly, in the course of a few days all the available troops in Scotland, including a large force of yeomanry cavalry, were concentrated upon Glasgow and the vicinity. On the afternoon of Sunday, 2d April, well-mounted orderlies conveyed to the two regiments of Ayrshire Yeomanry orders for their immediate advance on Glasgow, and the following regimental order was at once issued by Colonel Boswell:—

"AUCHINLECK, seven o'clock, April 2d, 1820.

"The commanding officer having received a sudden order to call out the corps under his command, however much he regrets the inconvenient time, he relies on the loyalty and spirit of all the individuals, and that every man will turn out in this emergency to put down those who render property and everything valuable to man insecure; all that can be wished is, that by one well-directed effort we may be spared further annoyance. The first and third

troops will assemble to-morrow at twelve o'clock noon, at Ayr, in marching order, with necessaries. The second troop, in like order, at the same hour, in Mauchline. The fourth troop, at the same time, in like order, at Kilmarnock.

“ALEXANDER BOSWELL, Lieut.-Col. Commandant.”

Similar orders were issued by Major Ferrier Hamilton to the troops of the 2d corps, and by 4 A.M. on Monday morning some 300 troopers were on the way to their various rendezvous. At noon Colonel Boswell took command of the united regiments, and disposed of the troops as follows:—Three troops of the 2d regiment, under Major Ferrier Hamilton, were directed upon Glasgow; two troops of the 1st regiment, under Major Crawford, proceeded to Paisley; while the remaining three troops of the united corps remained in Ayr, under the command of Captain Montgomerie, for the defence of the county.

The march of the five troops caused much excitement among the country villages along the line of route, and a considerable amount of unnecessary sympathy was expended upon the poor yeomen, who were going, according to the popular belief, to be skivered by the pikemen of Glasgow and Paisley.

The two troops of the 1st regiment reached Paisley about five o'clock in the afternoon, and they appear to have received some delicate attentions from the mob on their arrival: one of the yeomen, who, on his entrance into the town, had stated to his officer that he did not like the idea of a *rencontre* with an unarmed mob, seems to have undergone a change of sentiments, for, on the officer taking notice of the matter in the evening before the troop, the individual in question replied, “I’m no that man noo, for I’ve got a lick on the side o’ my head, and anither on my shouther, and I’m ready to gie them twa for’t!”

When the troops of the 2d regiment arrived in Glasgow, on the evening of the same day, they halted at the Black Bull

THEY WERE THEY RECEIVED THEIR MESSAGES IN THE GALLOWGATE. ON PROCEEDING TOWARDS THEIR DESTINATION THEY MET A LARGE COMPANY COLLECTED AT THE DOOR WHO WERE ASKED IF THEY HAD ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THEIR OWN ARRIVAL. THEIR ANSWER WAS THAT THEY HAD NOT. THE ANSWER WAS THAT OF THE SQUIRE THE ANDREW WATT OF THE GALLOWGATE TROOP, DISMOUNTED HIS HORSE IN THE DOOR AND THE BARRACK TROOP THREW THEMSELVES UPON THE KING, INVESTING HIMSELF IN A HURRY OF THEM, AND EFFECTUALLY RESCUING THE WAY. THEIR FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS THE GALLOWGATE WAS BY NO MEANS FORTH BRINGING AS THE INDIVIDUAL TROOP ASSAILED THEM WITH ALL AVAILABLE MUSKETS. THE DAMAGE INFLECTED BY THE MEN HOWEVER SUFFERED THE DETERMINATE ESCAPEMENT. A BRICK-BAT DISCHARGED FROM A WINDOW HIT HIM IN THE FOREHEAD OF A MEMBER OF THE GALLOWGATE TROOP, AND BEFORE THE KING HAD TIME TO RECOVER HIS WOUNDS THE BARRACK TROOP HAD RETURNED THE PROPERTY WITH AMPLE COURTESY, AND IT MAY BE SAID OF THE UNFORTUNATE GALLOWGATE THAT "THE SUBSEQUENT PROCEEDINGS INTERESTED HIM NO MORE."

THE DUTIES PERFORMED BY THE YEOMANRY THROUGHOUT THE EVENTFUL WEEK ARE DEVOID OF INTEREST: THE ASSEMBLY WAS SOUNDLED EVERY MORNING AT 4 O'CLOCK AND AFTER INSPECTION THEY WERE DISMISSED TO SPEND THEIR TIME IN THE STABLE YARDS, SHARPENING THEIR SWORDS AT THE HORSE-TROUGHS, AND WAITING FOR THE APPOINTED SIGNAL—THE FIRING OF A CANNON FROM THE BARRACK-YARD—WHICH NEVER CAME. ONE AFTERNOON AS SERGEANT THOMAS WALLACE, OF THE LOUDOUN TROOP, WAS STANDING AT AN ENTRY IN GALLOWGATE, HE WAS STABBED IN THE NECK BY AN ABOMINABLE INSTRUMENT CALLED A *degl*, WHICH WAS THROWN AT HIM BY A VILLAIN WHO MADE HIS ESCAPE. THIS INSTRUMENT WAS SOMEWHAT OF THE NATURE OF A SHUTTLECOCK, HAD A STEEL POINT THREE INCHES LONG,

¹ Andrew Watt, farmer, Yonderton, Tarbolton, is a hale and hearty veteran of eighty years, who delights in recounting the incidents of his Glasgow campaign, and boasts that he is not a bit too old to show younger men the way again should occasion arise.

was loaded with lead at the head, and dressed with feathers so as to guide its flight. The 1st regiment had also an opportunity of studying the natural history of *clegs*, many fine specimens of which were to be found at Paisley. Once, while marching through the town, a member of the mob threw one into the middle of the Ayr troop, whereupon Sergeant Cameron, who did not approve of such insects, galloped after the offender, pursued him through a passage and across several gardens, and eventually secured and brought him back in triumph by the skruff of the neck. On the morning of Wednesday, which had almost been proclaimed as the opening of the campaign, the whole troops in garrison, to the number of 5000, assembled and patrolled the principal streets and suburbs of the city. Rebellion was appalled and hid her face.¹ In the outskirts of the city only were some faint and convulsive efforts made to get the now demoralised insurgents to take the field, but the utmost endeavours of their ringleaders could only induce some two or three hundred partially armed men to venture forth, and they hastily skulked off on seeing the

¹ "At length the lang leukit for mornin' cam' roun',
When their hosts should assemble in country and toun,
Wi' their sharp pikes, etc.
When they vow'd that such valorous deeds shou'd be done,
What battles they 'd fecht, an' what fiel's they wad won,
But they countit their chickens afore they were hatch'd,
An' they guttit their haddocks afore they were catch'd,
Wi' their sharp pikes, etc.

"For their courage grew cauld when it cam' to the bit,
An' the puir bodies thocht it was high time to flit,
Wi' their sharp pikes, etc.
Their orator leaders turnt out rather shy,
An' they thocht it was best to let sleepin' dogs lie ;
For they didna much relish the leuks o' the chiels
Wha were ready to scatter some Wellington pills,
'Mang their sharp pikes, etc."
Sharp Pikes and Radical Clegs, by JOHN GOLDIE.

paucity of their numbers and the inadequacy of their equipment.¹ Only on one occasion did the military come into actual collision with the disaffected, and that was at Bonny-muir, where a party of fifty radicals had the boldness to make a stand and deliver their fire upon a small body of cavalry, consisting of eleven hussars and eleven members of the Kilsyth troop of Stirlingshire Yeomanry. The radicals were at once dispersed, and nineteen of their number taken prisoners. In Ayrshire, things had remained as usual during the week, with the exception of a muster of sixty men in Stewarton district, under the command of Mr. William Orr, shoemaker, who drilled them sword in hand. Accordingly a troop of Yeomanry from Ayr, under Lieutenant Gairdner, was despatched to the spot, when they succeeded in apprehending and carrying to Ayr the more prominent members of the radical force, but not including the valiant "Captain" William Orr, who, on the approach of the cavalry, found discretion to be the better part of valour. On Saturday the 8th, the presence of the troops in Glasgow and Paisley was dispensed with, and the Yeomanry accordingly returned to their homes.

Not many days after his return, Colonel Boswell was applied to by the Magistrates for a force to aid in quelling apprehended disturbances in Mauchline. Anxious to avoid calling out the Yeomanry again, Colonel Boswell stated his willingness to march at the head of the special constables. This, however, they declined to do, as they were unarmed, and believed that about one hundred and fifty of the disaffected were prepared for hostilities. The local troop of Yeomanry was then warned, but through some mistake they were appointed to assemble at five in the morning instead of at midnight, and when the gallant Colonel proceeded to take command at the latter hour, he was only able to collect seven

¹ *The Edinburgh Annual Register*, 1820.

yeomen. With these, however, in addition to the special constables, he set out, and having posted his troopers at the various outlets of the village, he succeeded in securing thirty of the ringleaders, together with a large number of pikes and clegs. The revolutionary spirit was now thoroughly cowed, and things began to resume their normal state of quietude. The pleasing duty then devolved upon Colonel Boswell of conveying to the Yeomanry the thanks which had been accorded them by the authorities, and he did this in terms of the following order :—

“AUCHINLECK, *April 17th*, 1820.

“The two corps of Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry having been united on service on the late threatening of a violation of the public peace, it is the duty of Lieutenant-Colonel Boswell to express the strong sense which he entertains, in common with every friend to social order, of the exemplary conduct of the Yeomanry of Ayrshire. Towards Major Ferrier Hamilton, who conducted three troops of his corps to Glasgow, with a promptitude which does equal honour to officers and men, there is but one feeling of thanks and approbation ; and the conduct of the three troops of the united corps at Ayr, under the command of Captain Montgomerie, has been no less conspicuous and meritorious. To Major Crawford and the two troops which marched to Paisley, Lieutenant-Colonel Boswell has already expressed his thanks for their behaviour under trying and harassing circumstances, and it will gratify them much more to learn that their soldier-like appearance and conduct was remarked and praised in very flattering terms by Lieutenant-Colonel Thornhill, who took the command at Paisley on Friday the 7th.

“To men who have loyally come forward to protect their country against the efforts of a traitorous rabble, the consciousness of having done their duty is the best recompence ; but it is grateful to human feeling to find that service thus performed is favourably appreciated by our fellow-subjects, and Lieutenant-Colonel Boswell has much pleasure in communicating the following general order and letters of thanks :—

"GENERAL ORDER.

"Major-General Sir Thomas Bradford begs that the different corps of Yeomanry and Volunteers which have been placed upon permanent duty upon the occasion of the late disturbance, will accept his best thanks for the alacrity with which they have come forward, and the steadiness with which they have discharged their various duties.

"The Major-General duly appreciates the sacrifice that has been made by individuals in leaving their private avocations at the present season of the year; but he trusts they will return to their homes with a satisfaction more than equivalent, and which must arise from the conviction that all have essentially preserved the cause of good order by their presence and activity, and some even with their weapons.

JAMES DOUGLAS, D.Q.-M.G."

LETTER FROM THE LORD-LIEUTENANT, SHERIFF, AND PROVOST OF PAISLEY.

"PAISLEY, 8th April 1820.

"SIR,—We, the Lord-Lieutenant, the Sheriff, and the Provost of Paisley, for himself and the other Magistrates of Paisley, beg leave in this manner to convey to you, and through you to the very respectable corps of Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry under your command, our warmest thanks for the patriotic and useful services which they have just rendered to this district in a manner so prompt and so honourable, and at a season so inconvenient for themselves.

"We also beg leave to express our own grateful sense (which accords with that of every respectable person in this town) of the very excellent conduct of all the individuals of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry while quartered here.—We have, etc. etc.,

"BLANTYRE.

"JOHN DUNLOP.

"OLIVER JAMIESON.

"To Colonel Boswell, Auchinleck, Mauchline."

The following letter from Lord Sidmouth was received by the Lord-Lieutenant of Ayrshire:—

“ WHITEHALL, 20th April 1820.

“ MY LORD,—Having received from Major-General Sir Thomas Bradford a report of the good conduct of the several corps of Yeomanry Cavalry who have rendered their services on the occasion of the recent treasonable tumults in North Britain, I have thought it my duty to lay that report before the King, and I have the satisfaction to acquaint your Lordship that His Majesty has commanded me to express his high sense of the promptitude and alacrity with which the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry assembled and (with the exception of three troops necessary for the defence of their own county) marched to Glasgow and Paisley for the purpose of assisting the civil power in averting the danger with which those populous and important towns were threatened.—I have, etc. etc.,

SIDMOUTH.

“ To the Right Hon. the Earl of Glasgow, etc. etc.”

And so ends the history of the “ Radical War,” an insurrectionary movement which at one time seemed serious enough, but which, thanks to the timely and sensible precautions adopted by the Scottish Administration, collapsed in a manner more nearly akin to the comic than the tragic. The following *jeu d'esprit*, written by John Goldie, then a member of a volunteer corps in Paisley, and afterwards an Ayrshire yeoman, may fitly close this chapter :—

“ RADICAL BODIES, GAE HAME.

“ Ye radical set, that in bodies hae met,
I redd ye to part and gang hame, gang hame,
Or faith ye will fin' that it's nae pleasant thing
For bullets to riddle your wame, your wame.
The cavalry's comin', gae hame, gae hame,
Wi' riflemen rinnin', gae hame, gae hame ;
The cavalry's comin', wi' riflemen rinnin',
Sae, radical bodies, gae hame, gae hame.

“ Ilk delegate chiel has been playin' the deil,
Wi' your purses, your cause, and your fame, your fame ;

Your pikes and your clegs are owre short in the legs
 For a rifleman's bullet, gae hame, gae hame.
 The cavalry 's comin', gae hame, gae hame,
 Wi' riflemen rinnin', gae hame, gae hame ;
 An' if ance they begin, they 'll gar a' your troops rin,
 Tho' ye were a dizen to ane, to ane.

"The night it was set, when your troops should hae met,
 To conquer or die for your claim, your claim ;
 But at bugle or drum, deil a out ye wad come,
 For ye thought ye were safer at hame, at hame.
 The cavalry 's comin', gae hame, gae hame,
 Wi' riflemen rinnin', gae hame, gae hame ;
 When cavalry 's comin', and riflemen rinnin',
 A radical's safest at hame, at hame.

"On Cathkin your camp was nae doubt rather damp,
 An' when it began for to rain, to rain,
 To keep yoursel's warm frae the weet and the storm,
 Ye were wise just to step awa hame, hame, hame.
 The cavalry 's comin', gae hame, gae hame,
 In case you should get yoursel' lame, lame, lame ;
 For I'll wad ye a groat, if ye slocken a shot,
 Ye'll think ye'd been better at hame, at hame.

"Ye expeckit, nae doubt, at your first turn out,
 That your faes would a' shrink at your name, your name ;
 That our sodgers would join, for to strengthen your line,
 But, my conscience ! you're rather mista'en, mista'en.
 The cavalry 's comin', gae hame, gae hame,
 An' a rifleman taks a guid aim, guid aim,
 An' if ance he should mak' a bull's-eye o' your back,
 Ye needna care muckle for hame, for hame."

CHAPTER III.

SIR ALEXANDER BOSWELL, BART.

“ Alas ! vindictive was the wrath,
And fatal was the blow,
Thou pride of Scotia's chivalry,
In death that laid thee low ! ”

ANY record of the Ayrshire Yeomanry would be incomplete without something more than a passing reference to the chivalrous Laird of Auchinleck, who commanded them so ably during the most stirring period of their history. The term “ Heaven-born soldier ” might well be applied to Colonel Boswell. Of commanding height and presence, a finished horseman, quick in judgment, concise in speech, and of indomitable zeal and energy, he brought to the command of the regiment all those qualities which constitute the successful leader of men. To his duties as commandant of the local cavalry, Colonel Boswell added those of a Member of Parliament and of a county magistrate, and in all these capacities he did the State good service. In literature also, as became the son of the biographer of Johnson, he was not undistinguished ; his private printing-press at Auchinleck made known to the world many of the treasures of that classic library, and his own pen produced songs and verses not a few which still live.¹

¹ Boswell's *Poetical Works*, by Robert Howie Smith, 1871.

One of his poems addressed to the Yeomanry may be reproduced here:—

“THE AYRSHIRE YEOMEN.

“Ye lads of Ayr, when first we met,
 Enroll'd as honest yeomen,
 Each bosom glow'd—we feel it yet—
 In warmth we'll yield to no men.
 The war is o'er, in peace we live,
 But surety double sure we'll give,
 That foreign and domestic foe,
 We have them down, we'll keep them low,
 And guard our happy nation.

“In olden time, our reckless sires
 Their swords might beat to ploughshares,
 But watchful steadiness inspires
 The man who duty now shares.
 Though caution some may deem absurd,
 Yet “ever ready” is the word,
 And while we grasp the trusty brand,
 Shall ruin sweep our native land,
 And 'whelm our happy nation?

“They are not men to crouch as slaves,
 Whose blood, like ours, throbs wildly,
 We are not fools, the dupes of knaves,
 Though wool-clad wolves look mildly;
 Then let the viper hide his sting,
 The reptile, if he ramp, we'll ring,
 His venom check, his malice mar,
 And fling the poison from us far,
 Far from our happy nation.

“The brimming bumper, boys, renew,
 A health to our defenders!
 Who closed the scene at Waterloo—
 That word new fire engenders!

Though willing all to meet the foe,
To their transcendent deeds we owe
That Britain's unpolluted shore
Is still undrenched with hostile gore,
And boasts a peerless nation."

The estimation in which Colonel Boswell was held by his corps found expression in the month of March 1820, when, at the close of the training, he was presented by the non-commissioned officers and privates of the regiment with a massive gold snuff-box.¹ In the following year Colonel Boswell was created a Baronet of the United Kingdom, a distinction much more rare in those days than it has since become. The following is a copy of the letter which brought him official intimation of the intended honour:—

“WHITEHALL, July 13, 1821.

“MY DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in acquainting you that His Majesty has signified his gracious intention of conferring upon you, forthwith, the dignity of a Baronet of the United Kingdom. This distinguished mark of Royal favour is to be attributed, not merely to the just view which has been taken by His Majesty of those fair pretensions which arise from your station in life, your property, and character; but also, in a high degree, to those principles of loyalty and of attachment to the constitution of your country which you have invariably manifested, and to the important services which, at periods and under circumstances the most critical, you have rendered in that part of the kingdom in which you reside.

“These considerations make it peculiarly gratifying to me to be the channel of this communication; and I need not assure you that the satisfaction which I feel on this occasion is heightened by the sincere regard with which I have the honour to be, etc. etc.,

“SIDMOUTH.

“Alexander Boswell, Esquire.”

¹ William Heron of Dalmore, Quartermaster of the regiment, made the presentation.

Sir Alexander was not long spared to enjoy his new and well-deserved honours. In March 1822, Mr. James Stuart, younger of Dunearn, conceiving himself to be insulted by a political squib which appeared in the *Glasgow Sentinel*, and, rightly or wrongly imputing the authorship to Sir Alexander, demanded of him that he should either disavow the authorship or else meet him. Sir Alexander, however, refused to say whether or not he was the author of the article complained of,—a course which may be accounted for by the fact that several gentlemen, Sir Alexander among the number, who contributed to the *Sentinel*, had pledged themselves not to divulge what they wrote. The hostile meeting, which accordingly became inevitable, took place at Auchtertool, in Fife, on 22d March. On his way to the fatal field, Sir Alexander informed his companions that as he had no ill-feeling towards Mr. Stuart, he intended to fire in the air, which he did. Mr. Stuart's bullet, however, was directed with deadly aim, and Sir Alexander fell mortally wounded, and being carried to the house of his relative, Lord Balmuto, expired there on the following day. The news of this unfortunate event caused universal sorrow in Ayrshire, and a very general wish was expressed by all classes that they might have the opportunity of paying a last tribute of respect by following Sir Alexander's remains to the grave. In this natural desire the 1st regiment of Ayrshire Yeomanry was not last in participating, and the following letter on the subject was received by Captain Fairlie from the Lord-Lieutenant:—

“HAWKHEAD, April 2, 1822.

“SIR,—I cordially concur with the wish you have so feelingly expressed, that the troops of the 1st Ayrshire Yeomanry, commanded by the late Sir Alexander Boswell (or such of them as can be most conveniently assembled), should attend his funeral on the 10th instant, and avail themselves of that last opportunity of testifying their respect and affection for a distinguished in-

dividual, whose zeal for the public interests of the county to which he belonged shone conspicuously through his life, and whose able and intelligent mind was always directed to the promotion of whatever was useful and patriotic.—I am, etc. etc.,

“GLASGOW, Lieutenant, Ayrshire.

“Captain Fairlie, commanding 1st A. Y. C.”

The wishes of the Yeomanry having been acquiesced in by the relatives, the troops assembled at their private parades on the morning of the 10th, and marched to Auchinleck House. The funeral *cortége*, nearly a mile in length, was headed by the Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Captain William Campbell of Fairfield, in reverse order, followed by the buglers belonging to the corps. On reaching Auchinleck churchyard, the cavalry filed off, and dismounting, rested upon their swords, while the rest of the attendants proceeded onwards to the church. It is said that not less than 11,000 persons were present on the occasion, a striking proof of the estimation in which the deceased baronet's memory was held. The tragical death of Sir Alexander Boswell suggested many poetical tributes; one, indeed, whereof a verse heads this chapter, is attributed to the great magician, Sir Walter Scott; but second to none in point of merit, and of greater value to us as the expression of local feeling, are the following beautiful lines by John Goldie,¹ a member of the Ay troop:—

“O heard you yon trumpet sound sad on the gale?
O heard you the voices of weeping and wail?
O saw you the horsemen in gallant array,
As in sorrow and silence they moved on their way?”

“The people's deep wailing, the trumpet's shrill tone,
Were the breathings of sorrow for him that is gone;
And yon dark plumes of death that did mournfully wave,
Deck'd the bier that bore on their loved chief to the grave.”

¹ Author of *Radical Bodies, gae Hame.*

“ When the train of lone mourners arrived at the path
That leads to the desolate mansions of death,
O marked you each horseman lean sad on his sword,
While the corse slowly pass'd of the chief he adored ?

“ And mark'd you each manly breast heave with a sigh ;
And mark'd you the tear-drop that gush'd in each eye,
Of those who were robed in the garments of woe,
When they saw him in death's dreary mansion laid low ?

“ In the cold vault of darkness the mighty one sleeps ;
He heeds not who praises—he hears not who weeps ;
And the sneer of the traitor—the bard's mourning hymn—
Are alike disregarded, uncared for by him.

“ Thy halls, Auchinleck, are all desolate now :
Ayr ! roll on in sorrow, in solitude flow ;
For low lies thy bard who so sweetly did sing—
Thy chieftain so true to his country and king.”

CHAPTER IV.

1820—1828.

“MR. BULLER.—The country is indebted to my friend Lansdowne for the disbanding of the most truly constitutional and national force that ever guarded the internal peace of a great kingdom.”

“SHEPHERD.—Ay, and the cheapest too, sir. The verra horses in plough or harrow were indignant at that measure; and the meenister’s cowte himsell, that used to carry the doctor as chaplain, though nane o’ the skeighest, had your friend the Markee offered to munt him, after his unpatriotic dissolution o’ the Soor-Mulks, wud hae funked the Secretary for Home Affairs outower the Carter.”—*Noctes Ambrosianæ.*

Two additional troops were raised in May 1820; one by Richard Oswald, younger of Auchincruive, in connection with the first regiment, and known as the fifth, or Captain Oswald’s troop; the other, in connection with the second regiment, by Claud Alexander, and called, out of compliment to him, the Ballochmyle troop. This increased the establishment of each of these corps from four to five troops of fifty men apiece.

Next year both regiments turned out in new clothing—a luxury due to the generosity of the county gentlemen, who voluntarily assessed themselves for the purpose of assisting to defray the heavy expenses thrown upon the commanding officers, and completing the equipment of the yeomanry. The following extract from the county minutes shows how inadequate the Government allowance was for the purpose intended:—

“The funds applicable to clothing and equipment are paid by Government at an annual rate of one pound ten shillings per man.

In order to meet the first expense on the formation of a corps, it is allowed to draw this annual allowance for three years in advance, after which period the annual allowance is again issued. The allowance taken in advance is only four pounds ten shillings, while the sum required to make the necessary outfit upon the most economical plan is not less than fourteen pounds. Before this sum, if advanced by the individual, can be replaced by the annual allowance, new clothing and many articles of equipment are required, and must be furnished either by the individual or the officer commanding. Besides this, when any changes take place in the corps (which in such corps are unavoidable), in many cases the clothing and some of the equipments are lost to the corps, and such individuals as may come forward to fill up the vacancies lose any advantage which might be obtained from the allowance paid in advance; and, if the persons who have left the corps have not served out the three years, are so far in a worse situation, as no annual allowance will come to them till that period shall have elapsed. Seeing these difficulties, and aware of the advantages which the public derive from the services of the yeomanry corps, other counties in Scotland and in England have seen the propriety of furnishing a permanent fund for obviating them, and for putting it in the power of the officers commanding these corps to keep them effective without incurring a heavy personal expense. To do this with the two corps of yeomanry which now exist in this county, consisting of five troops of fifty in each corps, your committee find, from the information communicated to them by the commanding officers, that a sum of not less than £2000 sterling would be required. For this purpose it was proposed that the sum when raised should be at the disposal of a committee, along with the commanding officers, to furnish the necessary equipments, and that the clothing allowances for both corps should be paid into this fund as they shall accrue, in order to meet expenses of incidental repairs and furnish new clothing, etc., when it shall be found necessary, and that a regular account of the fund and its application be kept. In this way it is considered that no further aid will be required to keep these corps constantly in a state of effective equipment."

It may be mentioned that the amount actually raised was

considerably less than the sum named, but the thanks of the yeomanry were none the less due for the very handsome and timely assistance accorded to them.

In 1822, Mr. John Goldie, on whose poetical remains we have so often had occasion to draw, came to Ayr as editor of the *Ayr Courier*, and enlisted in the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry. He made offer of his services in the following characteristic letter:—

“ ‘List, list—oh, list!’—*Hamlet.*

“ Know ye, James Watling, quartermaster,
I, Nichol Nemo, poetaster,
O’ my freewill hae got to say,
That I at Ayr this fourteenth day
O’ *March* (a month just made to list in),
My grey goosequill hae ta’en my fist in,
To let you an’ your Captain ken,
Gif ye be scarce o’ beasts or men,
I hae a horse, or rather mare,
An’ in your ranks I should na care
To mount her for a year or twa
Gif death an’ skaith should spare us a’.
As for the beast, she’s fit for duty,
Though like her master, nae great beauty;
Nae high-bred, mettled, spankin’ blood,
That skelps like lightnin’ o’er the road;
Nor is she strong for cart or pleugh,
But she sairs me, an’ that’s enough.

“ As for mysel’, wi’ heart an’ han’
I shall obey ilk just comman’;
Provided always, cap an’ feather,
Wi’ mountin’s o’ claith, steel, an’ leather,
Shall be provided first by you,
As is ilk tested sodger’s due.

“ Whene’er Will Culbertson’s loud horn
Shall soun’ ‘turn out’ at nicht or morn,

I shall be present on the fiel',
 Be't foot parade or mornin' drill ;
 An' ance I get a fortnight's hammerin'
 I' the awkward squad, frae Sergeant Cameron,
 I'll ken ilk order he can mention,
 At 'stand at ease,' be all 'attention,'—
 Like *spinners* help to *form a line*,
 Like *dandies* learn to *dress* in time,
 Mak' *squares* like ony *timber-whiter*,
 An' *charge*, ay, like a very writer.

“ Besides a' this, if foes should e'er,
 Or even Radicals appear,
 I'll no' be last, believe my word,
 To sen' them 'Hame' wi' pen or sword.
 Now, if ye like the terms aforesaid,
 There need be very little more said ;
 To ser' his Majesty I'm willin',
Hic manus est, let's see the shillin'.”

It need hardly be said that Mr. Goldie's services were gladly accepted, and that he proved himself to be as expert with the sword as he was with the pen.

The 1st regiment was reviewed in 1822 by Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, inspecting-officer to Major-General Sir Thomas Bradford, and the following is a copy of his report :—

“ Ayr, 27th July 1822.

“ SIR,—I have the honour to report to you that I have this day, according to your instructions, inspected the 1st corps of Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, under the command of Major Crawford. The zealous services of this corps are fresh in the memory of every individual, and the spirit of loyalty by which it was actuated under its late distinguished and lamented commander, is also universally known. It is a duty which I perform with the greatest pleasure when I state to you that the military appearance, dress, and equipment of this regiment of Yeomanry is very perfect : it executed

many movements with precision and promptitude, and is altogether in that state of discipline which could alone arise from the energy and attention of Major Crawford, his officers and men.—I have, etc.,

“ W. G. SMITH,

“ Lieutenant-Colonel and Major of Brigade.”

In August following, on the occasion of his Majesty's visit to Scotland, both of the Ayrshire regiments volunteered to serve in Edinburgh during his Majesty's stay. Their services, however, were not accepted, for the reason stated in the following letter from Mr. Secretary Peel :—

“ I have communicated to the King the wish expressed by the first corps of Ayrshire Yeomanry to attend his Majesty during his visit to Edinburgh, and I am commanded to desire that you will convey to that corps the assurance that his Majesty does the fullest justice to the loyalty and attachment which it has manifested towards him upon the present occasion, but that, on account of the distance from Edinburgh, and the inconvenience to which, on account of the season of the year, the members of the corps might be exposed, his Majesty has been graciously pleased to dispense with its attendance upon him.”

A letter in similar terms was addressed to Lieutenant-Colonel Ferrier Hamilton, commanding the 2d Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

In the summer of 1823, the Marquis of Hastings (better known as the Earl of Moira), after many years spent in India, where he held the high offices of Governor-General and Commander-in-chief, returned to his seat of Loudoun Castle ; on which occasion the Kilmarnock Volunteers, together with a troop of Yeomanry, marched thither to congratulate the distinguished nobleman. To commemorate the event, John Ramsay of Kilmarnock wrote a doggerel poem, of which the two following verses may be taken as a sample :—

“ When Hastings back frae India came,
The worthy chief to welcome hame

Our 'Dandies'¹ had resolved, and fame
 Said wine and wassail
 Profuse, should celebrate the same
 At Loudoun Castle.

"The Cavalry, wi' some persuasion,
 Agreed to serve on this occasion ;
 But, previous, they got intimation
 That nae flesh, but
 Such as was void of animation,
 Was to be cut."

Lord Hastings again revisited Loudoun Castle in August 1825. On this occasion his Lordship was escorted from Cumnock by a detachment of the 2d Regiment, which was relieved at Mauchline by a detachment of the 1st. In the meantime the remainder of the 2d Regiment, with one troop and a half from the 1st, assembled and formed line in the park at Loudoun ; while the Kilmarnock Volunteers, under Major Parker, formed up in front of the Castle. When the party approached they were received by a salute from the Yeomanry, and thereafter by the infantry. Lord and Lady Hastings then left their carriage and repaired to the park, where the Yeomanry marched past and saluted, and his Lordship was pleased to express to Colonel Hamilton, in the strongest terms, his satisfaction with the general good appearance and steadiness of the regiment, and the sense of gratitude with which he was impressed by a compliment so flattering to himself.

A great diminution of the Yeomanry force took place in the year 1827, the numbers being reduced from 35,500 to 13,500. The time chosen by Government for this reduction was singularly unfortunate, as, on account of the threatening state of Ireland, almost all the regular troops were required to do duty in that unhappy island ; and the impolicy of the step

¹ A nickname of the Kilmarnock Volunteers.

was fully demonstrated by the circumstance, that in the course of a very few years it was found necessary to re-embody almost every corps which had been reduced. Among those which suffered extinction in 1827 was the 2d Regiment of Ayrshire Yeomanry, the actual date of its dissolution being the 24th of December.¹

The services of this gallant regiment did not go without acknowledgment. At the county meeting held on 30th April 1828, Sir David Hunter Blair read the following letter from the Lord-Lieutenant:—

“*April 25, 1828.*

“MY DEAR SIR,—I hope you will forgive the liberty I take in addressing this letter to you, as the probable preses of the general meeting at Ayr on the 30th instant, persuaded that you will agree with me in the propriety of submitting to the meeting some resolution expressive of the sense entertained by the county of the very meritorious services of the 2d or Cunningham and Cumnock Corps of Yeomanry Cavalry, lately discontinued. Much praise, I am sure, it will be allowed, is due to Lieutenant-Colonel Ferrier Hamilton, individually, for exerting his military experience and skill in the instruction of the corps, and for the courtesy and kindness which gained him the esteem and regard of every individual belonging to it. The greatest praise is due to the other officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates, for the cheerful sacrifice they made of their personal convenience, for their exemplary conduct while in quarters, and their punctuality of attendance.² Such a tribute, expressed in such terms as you think proper, will, I am confident, meet the wishes of every person connected with the county.—I am, etc.,
GLASGOW.”

¹ A few months later Lieutenant-Colonel Ferrier Hamilton entertained the officers and a number of county gentlemen to a public dinner in Kilmar-nook; and at the anniversary dinner in October following, Colonel Hamilton was presented by his late officers with a valuable piece of plate.

² This was very conspicuous. At permanent duty in 1821, for instance, out of a total establishment of 268, there were only three men absent,—one from sickness, and the other two from the illness of near relatives.

The meeting having heard this letter read, unanimously resolved—

“That this meeting most cordially concur in and approve of the sentiments of the Lord-Lieutenant's letter in praise and approbation of the exemplary conduct of Lieutenant-Colonel Ferrier Hamilton and the other officers and men of the late 2d Regiment of Ayrshire Yeomanry, and that his Lordship's letter and this resolution be recorded as a small testimony of the high opinion the county entertain of their eminent services, and be published in the county newspaper and in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* and *Glasgow Herald*.”

CHAPTER V.

1828—1838.

“ My theme is the yeoman's fair praises ;
A plain man but asks a plain tale ;
With loyalty's glow his heart blazes,
And honesty's his coat of mail.”

SIR ALEXANDER BOSWELL.

WHEN the services of the second regiment were dispensed with, his Majesty was pleased to direct that the first regiment should be completed to three squadrons. Accordingly, in 1828, the sixth troop was raised, or rather was drafted, from the late regiment. This troop, which was recruited from the Loudoun district, was called the Loudoun Troop, and was commanded by Captain Hamilton. The regiment, thus increased to six troops of fifty men each, now resumed its former title of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry. For concentration and pliability the corps was divided into two wings; the *point d'appui* for the left being Kilmarnock, and for the right Ayr. These wings were placed under the superintendence of the two senior squadron officers, with an establishment of warners in each town, so that two squadrons could, on any emergency, be collected on the shortest notice, while the third or reserve squadron, from around Mauchline and Maybole, could follow in an hour or two. In 1829, the Countess of Glasgow presented the regiment with standards, which were duly consecrated by the Rev. Dr. M'Leod, chaplain to the corps. The standard for the right wing bore the royal arms and the device of “Carrick;” the

standard for the centre bore the figure of St. Andrew and the device of " Kyle ;" and that for the left had the figure of St. George and the device of " Cunningham."

In the course of the following year (1830), at the request of Earl Grey's Government, the troops were increased from fifty to eighty men apiece. No difficulty was experienced in obtaining the required number of recruits: in a very few days no less three hundred young men put down their names as willing to join, and many more could have been obtained had it been necessary. The regiment was now frequently employed in keeping the peace throughout the county. In a regimental order, dated July 28, 1831, Colonel Crawford says:—

"Gentlemen will observe that their services are at all times at the disposal of the civil authorities, either expressed by requisition from the Sheriff, or, in absence of superior authority, by any two Magistrates; but detachments or troops will on no account act without the orders of a Magistrate, except in self-defence, or in defence of the arms with which they are intrusted by his Majesty, and which it is hoped that no Ayrshire yeoman will ever tamely resign, however circumstanced or outnumbered, without first giving proof that he has made a good use of them."

On the 8th September of that year, orders were received by the commanding officer to send a detachment of men to Girvan, where a serious riot was apprehended. By twelve o'clock noon, seventy men, principally from the first and fifth troops, had marched off. They arrived within a short distance of Girvan at three o'clock, and remained there for three hours, while processions were taking place. Things appearing to be quiet, they then returned to Ayr, which they reached at about nine o'clock that evening, after a march of forty miles. The horses were not distressed, though some of them had marched not less than fifty-five miles that day. It is worthy of note that the party were cheered as they passed through the different towns,

particularly at Maybole. In connection with this affair, the county newspaper records an instance of singular military virtue in the person of a member of the Carrick troop, who was intrusted with the escort to Ayr of one of his nearest relatives, a prisoner under most serious charges. This duty he faithfully performed, although his life was threatened for so doing; his reply to such threats being, that his duty was his first consideration, and that as for his life, when that was attempted he would sell it dearly. In a regimental order the commanding officer drew attention to the meritorious services of this gentleman (Private Gibson) in foregoing for the conscientious discharge of his duty as a yeoman all considerations of a private nature: he was accordingly promoted to the rank of corporal, and his conduct was specially brought under the notice of the Lord-Lieutenant.

December following found the first troop again doing duty at Ayr, and on this occasion they received the thanks of the Home Secretary, as well as of the Lord-Lieutenant and Lieutenancy. The letter from the Home Secretary is in the following terms:—

“ WHITEHALL, 9th January 1832.

“ MY LORD,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship’s letter of the 4th inst., with its enclosures, reporting the return of the Carrick troop of Ayrshire Yeomanry to their homes, and I request that your Lordship will express to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the troop, the satisfaction which I have derived from the zeal and alacrity evinced by them on the occasion of their services being called for in aid of the civil power.—I have, etc.,

MELBOURNE.

“ To the Earl of Glasgow.”

In January 1832 a troop, full strength (eighty-three), turned out at Ayr “to protect the execution of a criminal;” and again, in June, Captain Fairlie was called upon to assemble his troop for similar disagreeable duty, the culprit on this occasion being

one Ramsay, who was hanged for shooting a constable at an Orange procession in Girvan, and apprehensions were entertained that a rescue might be attempted.

No assembly for permanent duty took place in 1832, on account of the great prevalence of cholera in Ayr and throughout the county: the Yeomanry at Edinburgh, Stirling, and Renfrew were also prevented from assembling for the same reason.

Coming to the year 1834, we find that the services of the yeomanry were called into requisition on the occasion of the Parliamentary election for the Ayr district of Burghs, which took place on 28th February. On this date Colonel Crawford received orders to assemble a troop as speedily as possible; and in the course of a few hours the fifth troop was collected at Monkton. At six o'clock P.M. they were marched into Ayr, which was by this time in the hands of the mob, the constabulary having been completely overpowered. On arriving at the town they had to attack and clear a barricade in the Newton. This they did in a few minutes amid a shower of stones, blue-lights being also thrown among the horses' feet for the purpose of frightening them. They then proceeded to clear the streets, behaving throughout with the greatest coolness and forbearance in spite of much provocation. When, at length, order had been restored, the yeomen were drawn up between the Old and New Bridge Ends. They were formed in three ranks, with an interval of about twenty yards, Colonel Crawford being in front of the first rank, Major Campbell of Treesbank in front of the second, and Lieutenant Boswell in front of the third. Here they remained for some hours in a state of semi-darkness, the old oil lamps giving only so much light as made darkness visible. A large crowd assembled round the yeomen, but, with the exception of an occasional stone or brick from out the darkness, their conduct was pacific, being probably to some

extent influenced by the knowledge that the pistols were loaded and primed. A characteristic incident here occurred which may be mentioned, as it affords an opportunity for correcting a popular but incorrect version of the story. A drunk man coming along the New Bridge was attracted by Colonel Crawford's white charger and glittering accoutrements, and, staggering along the front, attempted to take hold of the Colonel's bridle. Colonel Crawford reined his horse aside, saying good-naturedly, "Get away, my good fellow, and if you wish a glass of grog, I will order it for you." The "incapable" then passed round by the rear, and, observing Major Campbell in front of the next rank, proceeded to attempt a similar liberty with his bridle. He had mistaken his man. "Hold off," said the Major, "or I'll knock your head off." With drunken obstinacy, however, the man persisted in seizing the reins, and the mare commencing to rear, Major Campbell brought down his sword and cut the fellow's fingers rather severely. The local legend is that the man lost his head (which in a sense perhaps he did), but the above may be relied on as a true account of the matter, and it ought to be added that the sufferer was promptly attended to by a surgeon, and that the application, on the following morning, of a plaster in the shape of a five-pound note, was found to be a sovereign remedy. About 11 P.M. the crowds began to disperse, and the yeomen, with the exception of a guard of one sergeant and twelve men, were ordered to their quarters. The troop remained on duty for four days, and on being dismissed they were thanked by Sheriff Bell, who did not hesitate to declare his conviction that to the prompt appearance, steady conduct, and continued presence of so effective a force he had been mainly indebted for the preservation of the peace of the town, and the suppression of those disgraceful outrages which took place before their arrival.

In December following a part of the Loudoun troop was despatched to Catrine on the occasion of a formidable combination, supported by the Power-loom Union of Glasgow and the West of Scotland, who had ordered a strike among the people of Catrine, and by threats and intimidation endeavoured to prevent others from being employed in their place. The small party of yeomen, numbering only twenty men, succeeded in putting an end to the riot, and in apprehending the ring-leaders and lodging them in Ayr jail.

In the columns of the *Ayr Observer* (July 26, 1836) there appears a poetical address by an Ayrshire yeoman to his old charger, which is worthy of reproduction, not so much on account of its own merit as for the very humane and admirable sentiment which it embodies:—

AN AYRSHIRE YEOMAN'S ADDRESS TO HIS AULD CHARGER.

BY HUGH BAIRD, LATE FARMER IN LOCHHEAD.

“ What ails thee now, my puir auld Jeanie,
 Ye're no sae brisk as I hae seen ye,
 Sure it's no wark that mak's thee wearit,
 An' crushes down thy noble spirit ;
 But it's auld age has come upon thee,
 An' into sad dejection thrown thee.
 But think na tho' ye're turning auld,
 To some coal-driver ye'll be sauld,
 Through rugged roads to hag an' hash thee,
 Wi' leathern thong to whup an' lash thee :
 As oft we see beas' badly tented,
 By duddy men an' boys tormented,
 Wi' evil harness, fa's, an' threshes,
 Near half their surface a' red flesh is :
 They're starv'd to a'most skin an' bane,
 Till they can har'ly gang their lane ;
 Yet in a heavy lad'ning yokit,

Still by their drivers snool'd and knockit,
Till death, relenting at the view,
Steps kin'ly in for their rescue ;
About roadsides an' ditches lying,
We aft times see them dead or dying,
An' the puir carcass tak' the hale o't,
A hungry houn' scarce gets a meal o't ;
But while I live ye 'se ne'er be smarted
By coalmen cauld an' callous-hearted ;
I'll never prove sae far ungratefu'
As gie thee to sic tyrants hatefu',
As oft unfeeling masters act,
An' put auld servants to the rack.
I min' langsyne, when but a boy,
To rin wi' thee was muckle joy,
When thou a foal, a noble ranter,
Out through the fiel's took mony a canter ;
I aften led thee till the water,
An' gied thee corn to mak' thee fatter ;
Ye soon grew up baith stout an' brawny,
Yet aye was peaceable and canny—
Ane scarcely could hae found thy marrow
For either cart, or pleugh, or harrow.
Full thirteen years, wi' nimble shanks,
Ye bore me in the yeomen ranks,
For thou wast neither lame nor lazy,
But fu' o' mettle a' thy days ay ;
I needed ne'er t' apply my heel
To mend thy pace for charge or wheel,
But just my han' a wee thing slackit,
An' brawly thou the hint could tak' it,
Ye managed wi' the greatest ease
To pass, or file, or wheel by threes.
For ev'ry movement thou wast ready,
Yet at the sword stood firm an' steady ;
But days an' years hae changed the case,
A younger charger fills thy place ;

Baith man an' beast maun pass the prime,
 An' one day yield to conquering time.
 But tho' for wark now little able,
 Don't think I'll turn thee out my stable,
 While thou 'rt alive, I'll gie thee gratis,
 Ay twice a day, a wheen potatoes ;
 When younger horse come in frae toiling,
 Ye 'se get wi' them a pickle boiling,
 I'll fill thy hack wi' hailsome fodder,
 I'll rub thee down an' mak' thee snodder—
 While there's a nitch about the steading
 Thou shanna want for rowth o' bedding,
 As lang's a farm's by me possest
 Ye'll share a morsel o' the best,
 An' shouldst thou still be left alive
 When death does me of life deprive,
 By feeling frien's we're baith respeckit,
 What's for thy gude they'll no negleck it."

Passing to the year 1838, we find that a member of the House of Commons (Mr. Gillon) brought some very grave charges against the conduct of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry. It appears that a detachment of the 3d troop, under Captain Hunter, had been ordered to Kilwinning on the occasion of the county election on 7th August 1837, for the purpose of protecting the poll and preserving the public peace. Mr. Gillon, in his place in Parliament, asserted that the Yeomanry galloped into the town with drawn swords, to the great terror of her Majesty's subjects, and that they acted as regular canvassers for the Tories. These charges, which were devoid of the smallest particle of truth, were evidently concocted for the purpose of furnishing a little miserable political capital, and were promptly dropped when they had served their purpose. Had any vindication of the conduct of the Yeomanry been required, it would have been furnished by the follow-

ing letter from Captain Hunter, which appeared in the *Standard*:—

“HUNTERSTON, *April 6th*, 1838.

“SIR,—I regret to find by to-day’s paper that the motion of Mr. Gillon, regarding the conduct of the Ayrshire Yeomanry during the late elections, has been withdrawn, as I know that an inquiry would have shown that the information communicated regarding them was in every respect incorrect. Being the officer who commanded the detachment called into Kilwinning on the occasion alluded to, I beg to state, in the most express manner, that every one of the allegations against the conduct of the men is completely contrary to fact, and, in contradiction, I have to state the following, which I pledge myself as an officer and a gentleman to be correct, in so far as I know or had an opportunity of judging.

“The corps was not called out the day previous, as stated, but assembled on the morning of the day of election, and very early, that the men might not pass through any of the polling stations after the poll had commenced, and only one troop was out. About two o’clock P.M. of that day I received an order from the Sheriff to bring my detachment into Kilwinning in aid of the civil-power, and we did not enter it at a gallop as alleged. We would have been ashamed to have done anything so ridiculous; on the contrary, we came in at an ordinary trot, and in turning up a narrow street near to the polling station, I caused my men to walk, as there was a great crowd there. I understood that the reason of our being called in was that there had been considerable rioting, and that many of the Conservative voters had been grossly insulted by being spat upon and otherwise abused, and I know that Lord Kelburne had been attacked by the mob, had part of his clothes torn off, and with difficulty escaped. We remained drawn up before the polling booth about an hour and a half, and till the polling was over, when we were ordered to withdraw from the town. During this time no man moved from the ranks. I may mention, in case it should be meant as an allegation, that we had our swords drawn on entering the town; but I never heard that this was considered any ground of complaint against cavalry when on

duty. Shortly after arriving, however, I was told that it would please the people if I would cause the men to return their swords, and if I would do so they promised to be quiet. I accordingly did so, and we received three cheers. I state this merely to show that there was no desire on our part to irritate. In withdrawing from the town, and as soon as our backs were turned, we were assailed by a complete shower of stones, which was continued all the way out. I did not, however, allow any of the men to turn; I considered it would have served little purpose to have done so. If we had rode over or wounded any of the mob, it would have afforded to their instigators a good handle of complaint against the yeomanry. In returning, our swords were not drawn, and, as it was, no individual was attacked or in any way injured by our men; on the contrary, several of the yeomanry were a good deal hurt and cut by the stones. I shall only further remark, that nothing is so rigidly excluded from our corps as politics. We have men of all parties. One of the officers with me in Kilwinning was the seconder of the Liberal candidate on the nomination day, and several of the men had voted for him that morning.

“It is said that the yeomanry should not have been called out at all. That may be the case or not, but it was no matter of ours. We were ordered out by the civil authorities, and by them a part was called into Kilwinning, and I assert that no men could have behaved with more forbearance than those whom I had the honour to command on that occasion; and in behaving thus they only acted as the men of this regiment have always hitherto done, and will, I feel confident, always continue to do.

“The detachment consisted of thirty-four men and three officers.
—Your obedient servant, ROBERT HUNTER.”

To this it need only be added, that the Yeomanry have never acted in the spirit of partisanship; that they have been employed in protecting Whigs and Tories, Radicals and Reformers alike; that politics are never so much as mentioned in the regiment, being in fact forbidden; and that whenever a man puts on his uniform he lays aside his politics.

CHAPTER VI.

1838—1855.

“ Our troop contains some spoonies,
That shame their bonny nags,
And bump upon their saddles
Like to a miller's bags ;
But these, our pride and glory,
Sit firm upon their rears,—

In fact, they're more like Centaurs
Than common cavaliers.

“ Some people in the charging
Are shy about the squeeze ;
But these dress by their sergeant,
And never mind their knees.
And from the carriage-windows
Look out the pretty dears,—

May we all ride together
For many happy years.”

Songs of the Edinburgh Troop.

In the year 1838 Government resolved to reduce a great part of the Yeomanry corps then in existence. In Scotland only two corps escaped the general extinction, and these were the Lanarkshire and Ayrshire regiments. Mr. Fox Maule stated in Parliament that both of these corps had been frequently called out in aid of the civil power ; that they were under the command of officers of experience ; that they could be transported with ease elsewhere ; and therefore they were to be retained. We find from the Yeomanry Returns of 1840 that the relative strength of these two corps was :—Ayrshire, with six troops, numbering 27 officers and 475 men,—total, 502 ; and Lanarkshire, with four troops, numbering 13 officers and 219 men,—total, 232 ; giving 734 as the total strength of Yeomanry Cavalry in Scotland.

In September 1842, in consequence of the colliers having struck work and assembling in large bodies to prevent others

from working, the second and fourth troops were called out, and very speedily assembled at Kilmarnock,—one troop marching to Irvine, and the other remaining at Kilmarnock. In the course of a few days these troops were relieved by the fifth troop, one-half of which was stationed at Kilmarnock and the other half at Irvine. After a fortnight's duty, occupied chiefly with patrolling at night, both detachments were withdrawn. In November following, Captain Hunter received orders to march to Ayr with forty men of the third troop. They were called out in consequence of the riotous conduct of the turn-out colliers, who had attacked a number of the new hands and shot one of them. The third troop was on duty altogether for thirty-three days; the one-half of the troop which was first called out having been relieved during this period by the other half. The very excellent behaviour of the men is testified to in the following report from Captain Hunter to Colonel Crawford:—

“AYR, Decr. 1842.

“The Captain commanding the detachment of the third troop, which has been on duty here for the last thirty-three days, is much gratified in being able to report to the Colonel Commandant that the conduct of the men has been most soldier-like and exemplary, and such as to afford him the utmost satisfaction.

“He has great pleasure in adding that on no occasion has any one of the men ever appeared on duty in the slightest degree affected by spirits; that notwithstanding the hard work at night and severe wettings, neither man nor horse has been unfit for duty, except from accidents; that at all times, on being called upon suddenly, they turned out with an expedition equal to that of regular troops (ten to twelve minutes); that there existed among the men but one feeling of anxious desire to do their duty to the very best of their ability; and he feels justified in saying that no troops could more efficiently have discharged the duties imposed upon them than these men.”

Before returning to their homes the detachment was inspected on the sands by Lord-Lieutenant the Earl of Eglinton, when a variety of manœuvres was executed in a manner which reflected the highest credit upon the corps; whilst the clean and soldier-like appearance of the men, and the excellent condition of the horses, attracted general attention.

Although the day was unfavourable, with frequent heavy showers, the ground was graced by the presence of the Countess of Eglinton in an open carriage. A considerable number of the inhabitants of Ayr also assembled to witness the movements. At the close of the inspection, the Lord-Lieutenant addressed the troop to the following effect:—

“I have great pleasure in expressing to you my extreme approbation of the precision with which you have gone through the movements, and of the soldierly appearance which distinguishes the whole detachment. It reflects the greatest credit on yourselves and the officers under whose command you have been placed. As I hope that, within a few days, I shall be able to allow you to return to your homes, I take this opportunity of expressing my admiration of the excellent conduct which has characterised your stay in Ayr; and on the part of the county, as its Lord-Lieutenant, to return you thanks for the efficient services which you have rendered. I have no hesitation in saying that it is owing to the presence of the Yeomanry here that the peace and tranquillity of this part of the county during the last few weeks must be attributed. I am most happy to find that the long service and harassing night patrols have not proved either prejudicial to yourselves or your horses. On your return home you will have the satisfaction of knowing that, by your excellent conduct, you have earned the respect of the whole county, and raised the character of the regiment to which you belong.”

It is worthy of record that the average height of the third troop (recruited entirely from the Cunningham district), which was taken at this time, was no less than 5 feet 9½ inches in

their stocking soles, and this is the more creditable when we recollect that the men were all of the agricultural class, and taken into the troop without any particular regard to height. It will be remembered that the third troop was the original Ayr troop, and it may be asked how its headquarters came to be removed from Kyle to Cunningham. The explanation is as follows:—When the 2d or Cunningham regiment was disbanded, it was found to be exceedingly inconvenient that there were no yeomen in the northern part of Ayrshire whose services could be made available in the event of disturbances arising in that district or in Glasgow and Paisley. Instructions were accordingly given to Captain Hunter (who had joined the third or Ayr troop in 1829, Lord Eglinton being then Captain) to recruit the troop as far as possible from North Ayrshire. This Captain Hunter very soon did, and in 1830, when, at Earl Grey's request, the troop was increased to 80 men, no less than 150 of the flower of the Cunningham farmers offered their services. Captain Hunter very naturally selected the required number from among the old members of his late Irvine troop of 2d Ayrshire Yeomanry,¹ and as vacancies occurred, they were filled up in a similar way, till eventually the third troop came to be composed entirely of Cunningham men. The fifth, or Captain Oswald's troop, now became the Ayr troop, and was recruited from the neighbourhood of the county town. While on the subject of the old third troop, it is but right to record the very high state of efficiency to which it attained through the zeal and attention of Captain Hunter. Himself a thorough soldier, he endeavoured, and with marked success, to communicate to his men an ambition to excel in all the details of

¹ The Irvine troop was very loath to suffer extinction in 1827, and in January 1828 they paraded at West Kilbride, and offered to continue their services gratuitously, stating that not a man in the troop had been absent from the last training. The Government, however, declined to accept their services.

their duty. His constant desire was that his troop should be, in his own modest words, "at least not inferior to any other troop in the regiment;" and it may be truly said that he had as much cause to be proud of his troop as his troop had to be proud of him. The painful accident Captain Hunter met with when in the discharge of his duty, and which eventually led to his retirement from the Yeomanry, evoked the warmest sympathy from every member of his troop; and to this day, among his old surviving comrades, there is but one feeling of affectionate regard for the memory of their much respected and much lamented commander.

Colonel Crawford died suddenly at Newfield on 3d February 1843, and was interred at Dundonald on the 10th, with military honours. Of the six sergeants who carried his body to the grave, Mr. William Sloan of Brieryside, Monkton, still survives. Though a strict disciplinarian, Colonel Crawford was much liked by his men, who recognised in him those soldierly qualities which won him distinction in the fields of Spain.

In the days of which we speak, a certain amount of firmness was very necessary in the head of a yeomanry regiment; hard drinking was more common then than now, and with the early turn-out in the morning there was a temptation occasionally to sit up all night with the "barley bree." Mr. Sloan tells of a rather amusing instance of this breach of discipline. One morning Colonel Crawford observed a man in the ranks who was not altogether—to put it mildly—as sober as a judge, so he rode up to Sergeant Wright, who happened to be on the flank of the troop, and ordered him to take the delinquent to the guard-room. Sergeant Wright accordingly took hold of the bridle and marched the man off to the door of the jail! where he rang the bell. The turnkey who appeared asked what was wanted. "You are to lock up this man," said the sergeant. "By whose orders?" queried the turnkey. "By Colonel Craw-

furd's orders." "And what am I to do with the horse?" said the perplexed turnkey. "Oh, I suppose you are to lock him up too." Upon that the turnkey shut the gate in their faces, and the sergeant, seeing there was nothing else for it, told his prisoner to go home to bed and come sober to-morrow, and galloped back to the regiment. "Well, sergeant," said the Colonel, "how did you come on?" "I did not get on at all, sir," replied Wright; "they said — was so big a blackguard they would not take him in." And on its appearing that the sergeant had mistaken the jail for the guard-room at the barracks, the Colonel was greatly amused, and took the first opportunity for sharing the joke with the other officers.

By his officers Colonel Crawford was highly esteemed, and they gave expression to their feelings in the year 1835 by presenting him with a valuable piece of plate, the presentation being made by Captain Charles Fergusson, younger of Kilkerran.

Colonel Crawford was succeeded in the command by Major Montgomerie of Annick Lodge.

At the annual review in 1845, a royal standard was presented to the regiment by the Countess of Eglinton. The standard was composed of rich rose-coloured silk, on which the royal arms were embroidered in gold, the whole being surrounded by a gorgeous border of the same material. The regiment formed into hollow square, with the band in the centre, three sides of the square being composed of the different squadrons, while the fourth was occupied by the carriage and four in which her ladyship was seated. The imposing ceremony of the presentation then commenced with prayer by the Rev. J. C. Jamieson, chaplain to the regiment, who held the standard in his hand. At the conclusion of the prayer the standard was handed back to the Countess, and Colonel Montgomerie and the other officers having assembled round the carriage, her ladyship addressed them as follows:—

“Colonel Montgomerie, I have much pleasure in placing in your hands, as Commandant of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, this royal standard ; and in presenting it to so distinguished a corps, I feel certain that it will be received with the loyalty and guarded with the zeal and fidelity that have always marked your conduct. It is an additional gratification to me that I have this opportunity of expressing my gratitude for the kind and flattering manner in which I was received by the corps when I first arrived in this county.”¹

She then handed the standard to the gallant Colonel, who replied in these terms :—

“Lady Eglinton, allow me, in my own name and in the name of the regiment now assembled before you, to return you our most sincere thanks for the honour you have conferred upon us in presenting us with the standard, and to assure you that our constant endeavour shall be to retain it as unsullied as the hand that has now presented it to us.”

The officers then retired to their respective posts, and Colonel Montgomerie having placed the colours in the hands of Quarter-master Henderson of the Carrick troop, it was carried round the square, the officers saluting as it passed, until it reached the 1st squadron, where it rested, to be borne in future on the right of the regiment.

In November 1846, Lieutenant-Colonel Fairlie of Holmes was appointed Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, *vice* Colonel Montgomerie, who had retired a short time previously.

During 1847, disturbances of a minor character occurred in the county, and portions of the third and sixth troops were called out on several occasions. In 1848, however, matters assumed a more serious complexion. The rabble of Glasgow, fired by the success of their *sans-culotte* brethren of Paris,

¹ When Lord Eglinton brought home his bride in March 1841, the noble pair were escorted to the Castle by a detachment of eighty men from the 3d troop and district, with the Colonel, Major, and one Lieutenant.

endeavoured to get up a small revolution on their own account; and on the 6th, 7th, and 8th of March, numerous shops were broken open and sacked, and for a time Glasgow was absolutely at the mercy of the criminal part of the population.

On the 8th, in consequence of representations from the authorities in Lanarkshire, the whole of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry were called out and kept on duty for eight days, one squadron being stationed at Ayr, one at Kilmarnock, and the third at Beith, Kilbirnie, and Dalry.

In July following, while the regiment was assembled on permanent duty at Ayr, news of the Smith O'Brien outbreak was received, and the commandant, through the captains, put the question to the troops, whether, in the case of emergency, they would be disposed to offer their services in any part of the kingdom. An affirmative to the question was at once given by three unanimous and hearty cheers, and the decision of the regiment was conveyed to the Lord-Lieutenant, and by him to the Government. The following acknowledgment was received:—

“WHITEHALL, 5th August 1848.

“MY LORD,—I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 3d instant, informing me of the high state of efficiency of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, which assembled at Ayr for permanent duty during the past week, and of the unanimous offer of their services in any part of the United Kingdom, should Her Majesty deem it expedient to require them; and I am to acquaint your Lordship that this communication is highly satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government.—I have, etc.,

“G. GREY.

“The Earl of Eglinton and Winton.”

The regiment turned out this year in new clothing, dark blue overalls replacing the former grey ones, black belts superseding pipeclay, and a graceful plume being substituted for the old horse-hair tuft.

For more than half a century it had now been the custom to hold the annual training on the sands, the only exception being when the corps was brigaded with infantry, in which case the review took place on the race-course. This happened, it will be remembered, in 1805, when General the Earl of Moira was reviewing officer. There were many disadvantages attendant on drilling on the shore, such, for instance, as the exposure to wind and rain, the difficulty of hearing words of command, the showers of wet sand that drove into the faces and damaged the uniforms of the men in the rear rank, and lastly, the necessity of accommodating the hours of drill to the state of the tide. All these inconveniences contributed to secure a change, and a permanent move was made to the race-course in 1854. Strangely enough, in the very first year of the new drill-ground a fatal accident befell Corporal John Bell of the 2d troop, whose horse bolted with him, and, dashing against the wall bounding the course, killed the unfortunate rider on the spot.

It had always been the custom for the officers to offer a purse to be either raced or trotted for on the review day, the conditions being generally of a rough-and-ready character, and the course, like the classic race-course of the Newton cadgers, running *per mare per terram*. Occasionally the conditions were of a novel not to say startling nature; for instance, after the review of 1828, the non-commissioned officers and privates of the corps competed for a cup, value fifteen guineas, given by the officers. The race is thus described in the county newspaper:—"A close column of half-squadrons being formed at the starting-post, each of the twelve ranks taking proper distances of files, started in succession in full review order, after which the twelve winners, having laid off their side-arms, started for the cup, which was won by Mr. Orr of the 2d or Mauchline troop." It is not very clear from the above description whether the race was on foot or on horseback, but in either

view it seems calculated to have afforded sport for the spectators.

Private matches on foot were not uncommon. In 1821 a yeoman of the name of Hare undertook to run 200 yards with a comrade fully sixteen stones weight on his back, before another yeoman named Tod would run double the distance unencumbered; and Mr. Hare succeeded in carrying his welter weight home several lengths in front of his opponent. Again, in 1833, the Earl of Eglinton matched himself on foot against one of his brother officers on horseback, to run a distance of fifty yards, turning round a flagstaff and returning the same distance. The match came off on the green behind the County Buildings, in presence of a number of spectators. On starting his Lordship went off with the lead, and reached the flagstaff about the same time as the horse, which turned cleverly but shied immediately after. This advantage was seized by his Lordship, who put on a spurt and easily defeated his four-footed antagonist.

As a natural consequence of the change to the race-course, the annual races improved in quality, and were conducted under more racing-like conditions. The smoothness of the new course, moreover, tempted the officers to try the mettle of their chargers, and a challenge cup was instituted in 1855, which has since been run for annually. Prizes are now offered for trots, gallops, and a hurdle race, and the interest taken in the yeomen's meeting (albeit entirely unknown to the betting fraternity) may be judged of by the fact that the number of spectators generally present might fairly be compared with the assemblage on the first and second days of the Scottish Ascot—the Western Meeting.

CHAPTER VII.

1856—1880.

“Howe'er and whene'er rolls the wheel,
A yeoman's content with his *share* ;
With *furrows* although he must deal,
It shan't be the furrows of care.”

SIR ALEXANDER BOSWELL.

DURING April 1856, the third and sixth troops were called out in consequence of a widely spread strike among the colliers in the north of Ayrshire. These troops remained on duty for a fortnight, when they were relieved by the first and fifth troops. It was at this time, and while on duty with his troop, that Captain Hunter met with a serious injury to his shin-bone, through a kick from one of the trooper's horses. The strike continued for seven weeks, and during all that time a squadron remained on duty, the troops named relieving each other. Sheriff Christison expressed his approbation of the conduct of the yeomanry in the following communication to Colonel Fairlie :—

“I have great satisfaction, in consequence of the cessation of the strike among the miners, and the improved state of the county, in being enabled to dispense with the longer continuance of the services of the Yeomanry Cavalry under your command from this date (12th June). I cannot, however, do so without expressing, for the public authorities and myself individually, our strong sense of the importance of the services which you and the regiment have

rendered on the present very serious occasion, and of the obligation conferred on the county for the preservation of the peace, at a very great sacrifice of time and occupation. I believe it to be almost unexampled that a strike of many weeks' duration should have passed over among great masses of unemployed men with so little disorder or riot; and although much is due to the improved habits and way of thinking of the unemployed men themselves, yet I have a strong conviction that the result has, in a great degree, been owing to the salutary influence which the troops under your command exercised, not less by the respect which their uniform good conduct and conciliatory temper inspired, than by the impression of their efficiency and determination to put down all illegal demonstrations and violence. I shall immediately communicate to Sir George Grey (the Secretary of State for the Home Department) the important services of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry on the present occasion, when I shall particularly mention the alacrity with which they answered the call upon them, and the sacrifices which they cheerfully rendered for preserving, unaided, the public peace."

For many years it had been almost a matter of course for a squadron of yeomanry to be called out on the 12th of July in aid of the civil power. On 14th July 1860, Sheriff Christison again writes:—

"I have to return the thanks of the Magistrates, and, in particular, of myself, for the prompt and most valuable services of the Yeomanry Cavalry on the 12th of July, to which, as on former occasions, I ascribe in a great measure the preservation of the public peace, and without which at any rate there could have been no security that it would be preserved over so widely spread a district as Ayrshire. I trust that, with the continued assistance of the yeomanry, this great county evil on the 12th of July will in no long time be put an end to, and that the claims of the yeomanry upon the public will be then still further appreciated."

It is a satisfactory reflection that, since this period, the yeomanry have not been called upon to assist the civil

authorities; but while this result may be attributed in great part to the causes mentioned by Sheriff Christison, still it must be remembered that the increased strength and greater efficiency of the county police has a good deal to do with it.

At the annual training of 1861, Lieut.-Colonel J. O. Fairlie took the command, and the occasion was signalled by the presentation of a banner to the Kyle squadron by Mrs. Fairlie.

Since 1828 the regiment had consisted of three squadrons or six troops, which were raised generally from the different districts, but were not confined to any particular parishes. For obvious reasons, it was resolved in 1862 to define the various parishes from which each troop was for the future to be recruited, and at the same time to increase the number of the troops from six to eight. Accordingly a board of officers, consisting of Captain C. V. Hamilton-Campbell, president, Captain R. Gairdner, and Lieutenant C. G. Shaw, was appointed for the purpose of dividing the county into eight troop districts; and the following is the result at which they arrived:—

1st or Carrick troop to consist of—the parishes of Ballantrae, Barr, Colmonell, Dailly, Girvan, Kirkmichael, Kirkoswald, Straiton, and Maybole.

2d or Ayr troop to consist of—Ayr, Coylton, Newton, Dalrymple, and St. Quivox.

3d or Cumnock troop to consist of—Cumnock, Ochiltree, Auchinleck, Muirkirk, New Cumnock, and Dalmellington.

4th or Mauchline troop to consist of—Mauchline, Tarbolton, Stair, and Sorn.

5th or Kilmarnock troop—Kilmarnock, Galston, Riccarton, Symington, Monkton, and Craigie.

6th or Loudoun troop—Loudoun, Stewarton, Kilmaurs, Dreg-horn, and Fenwick.

7th or Irvine—Irvine, Kilwinning, Stevenston, Ardrossan, Kilbride, and Dundonald.

8th or Dalry—Dalry, Largs, Kilbride, Beith, and Dunlop.

From this it will be seen that the first or Carrick troop, raised in 1793, remained unchanged; that the second or Cumnock and Mauchline troop, raised in 1803, was split up into the third and fourth; that the third or Ayr troop, raised in 1803, and which afterwards came to be recruited from Cunningham, now became the seventh; that the fourth or Galston troop, raised in 1817, became the fifth; that the fifth or Auchincruive troop, raised in 1820, afterwards the Ayr troop, now became the second; that the sixth or Loudoun troop remained as formerly; and that a new troop, the eighth or Dalry troop, was carved out of the Cunningham district.

From an early period in the history of the regiment, it had been customary for the officers to give a prize for the horse best adapted for yeomanry purposes as well as for farm work. A committee was sometimes appointed to act as judges, as appears from the following report for the year 1818:—

“We, the undersigned, being appointed judges by the four troops of Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, commanded by Colonel Boswell, to inspect and report the best horse or mare for strength, form, and action, equally adapted for farming purposes and for the Yeomanry Cavalry; and having inspected, find the best horse of that description to be George Andrews’ bay horse, Muirhouse, parish of Monkton, belonging to the 2d troop of said corps.

“WILL. HERON.

“JOHN CAMPBELL.

“WM. HENDERSON.

“ALEX. CRICHTON.”

Prizes, consisting of a handsome set of cart harness and a saddle and bridle, are now awarded to each squadron; the best horse in each troop being selected in the first instance, and the winners competing in squadron for the harness, the saddle and bridle falling to the loser. In 1867 prizes were instituted for the best swordsmen in each troop; the absolutely best swordsmen

man in the regiment, however, was not determined till 1878, when it was arranged that the troop winners should contest for a champion prize. Cutting the sword exercise at a gallop was first practised in 1880, and will probably become a feature of the annual training, the commanding officer having announced his intention of presenting a prize to the trooper who is most proficient in that exercise.

One of the results of the Franco-Prussian war was to throw a new light on the possibilities of cavalry. While not depreciating their importance *en masse*, it has been found that they are of even greater value while acting as, what has been aptly termed, the eyes and ears of an army. Greater attention has consequently been paid of late to the instruction of cavalry in the principles and practice of reconnaissance. For this kind of work yeomanry are peculiarly well fitted; they have an intimate knowledge of their own district, they are, as a rule, well mounted and able to make their way across country, and they possess individually an amount of intelligence which well qualifies them for acting independently. The Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry have taken with much enthusiasm to this very important branch of drill in which they were initiated in 1876. In 1877, a day was again devoted to this drill, and to make the manœuvres more realistic, the rifle volunteers and militia recruits were good enough to represent an enemy. The "general idea" which was worked out was as follows:—The regiment was supposed to have gone southward from Ayr on a foraging expedition. Returning by the Bridge of Doon, at Alloway they encountered the left wing of a force investing Ayr, and, repulsed at the bridge, their only way of regaining Ayr was lower down the river. Colonel C. V. Hamilton-Campbell, in command of the yeomanry, finding his way barred, moved by Longhill Avenue, and directed his first squadron upon the low

Bridge of Doon. His orders to Captain Pollok, who commanded the squadron, were—"No. 1, Send an orderly to reconnoitre lower bridge. If held by the enemy, try to force a passage. If not practicable, keep up as heavy a fire as you can upon the party there. No. 2, Communicate with me at Longhill farm, and report proceedings." Captain Pollok, finding the bridge occupied by the enemy, dismounted his even files, and, lining the hedgerows, directed a heavy fire upon it. The Colonel's orders to the second squadron, under command of Captain Adam, were—"No. 1, Proceed by Longhill farm road; occupy Doonfoot mill and the adjacent buildings; line the left bank of the river, and try to dislodge the enemy from Gearholm. No. 2, Send E troop as far as you can venture to do so towards the right, and take the bridge in flank." These orders were carried out. The banks of the river were soon lined by the yeomen, and a damaging fire was kept up on the enemy, who, upon the opposite bank of the river, occupied Gearholm. Ere long Captain Adam reported that a passage by the third squadron across the ford might be safely made. Accordingly the third squadron, under the command of Captain Kennedy, was pushed forward further to the left, and, eventually, under cover of the fire of the second squadron, succeeded in crossing the ford opposite Cunningpark, the tide being out. The enemy, finding their flank turned, retired in skirmishing order across a field, the road by the Doon side being commanded by the yeomanry on the opposite bank, and eventually retreated by Greenfield Avenue. The usual duties of the patrols and communicating parties were well performed, and the successful operations of the first, second, and third squadrons were, on the whole, admirably carried out. The defending forces were under the command of Colonel Hay Boyd, and their movements were carefully and well conducted.

A field-day of a somewhat similar description took place in

1878. The general idea this time was:—That a line of outposts be taken up by three squadrons, covering a line between the Mauchline Road and the Maybole line of the Glasgow and South-Western Railway, facing east, with a view to check the advance of squadrons from the direction of Dalmellington endeavouring to force their way into the town. To distinguish the opposing forces, the invaders wore forage-caps and the defenders helmets. A squadron, under Captain Adam, was told off to pierce the defensive line from a distance of five miles from Ayr, his object being to reconnoitre the ground in rear of the advanced line of outposts, and to ascertain the force that was in rear. It was assumed that the position of Ayr was some four or five miles further in rear of the line, and was protected by a strong force of all arms. The first squadron, under Captain Somervell, was placed near to Overmills, protecting the ground extending from the river to the Mauchline Road, and sending out reconnoitring parties to the front along that line. The second squadron, under Captain Cooper, was stationed at Holmston farm, and guarded the ground between the road and Castlehill mansion-house; while the fourth squadron, under Captain Patrick, took up the line from Castlehill to the railway at Belmont. The attacking squadron (the third) started from Tarholm Bridge at eleven o'clock, with an advanced guard, sending out two parties, each consisting of six men and a sergeant, from the main body—one to Belston and the other by Knocksoul to Wee Macnairston—with the view of diverting the attention of the defending force in these directions; whilst the main body proceeded by Craighall, past Auchincruive Kennels, and crossed the river Ayr near to Mountshaw, about a mile above Overmills, and took the road on the north side of the river to the back of Craigie mansion-house, being all the time well hid from view. At Mountshaw, the first squadron vedettes were surprised, and on reaching

Mainholm farm-house their picket was also surprised. The squadron then continued its onward march, and on coming upon the supports they overpowered them, and thus achieved their supposed object, namely, a successful reconnaissance of the enemy's forces.

CHAPTER VIII.

CARBINE AND RIFLE PRACTICE.

"I now hasten to the last, the panic-striking, soul-subduing moment of letting the pistols off! . . . I could not hear the captain's 'last words' as he rode up the ranks, but his face was expressive, and I flatter myself I have guessed them pretty accurately, when I give the following as a specimen:— 'My good fellow, when you fire, take both hands.' . . . How shall I describe that awful moment! The men sighed, the horses panted, and, at last, with an internal 'Now for it,' pop-pop-pop went the pistols of as many as could pull their triggers—the horses reared, and pranced, and plunged, and ran forwards, and fell backwards, and reeled sideways."—*Phantasmagoria.*

THE history of rifle practice in the regiment is of comparatively recent date. Armed originally with pistols, no great degree of proficiency was expected in their use beyond the *sine qua non* of adhering to the saddle after the discharge. The next step was the introduction of the Brown Bess carbine; and with this, as the report was louder, the difficulty of preserving continuity between man and horse was so much the greater. Efforts, however, began to be made in the direction of practising on foot, and for many years it was customary to devote an afternoon during permanent duty to carbine practice on the sea-shore. The distance was 100 yards, and the target, with which each troop was furnished, consisted of a slight framework of wood covered with paper, on which a bull's-eye was drawn. It need hardly be said that the shooting was not brilliant; one day's practice in the course of the year is not calculated to make marksmen, and the old Brown Bess took a great deal of holding to go anywhere near the mark.

On one occasion the happy idea occurred to Captain Burnett of Gadgirth, of hanging an empty bottle over the bull's-eye, so as to form a ringing bull. No sooner was this thought of than it was put into execution, and, to encourage his troop, the generous officer promised half-a-crown to every man who succeeded in smashing a bottle. Not a little to the astonishment of the spectators, and greatly to the satisfaction of the members of the troop, bottle after bottle fell before their deadly but hitherto unappreciated aim, till in the end the supply, both of bottles and half-crowns, was completely exhausted. The explanation of this surprising feat is, that Captain Hamilton-Campbell, whose troop was practising next to Captain Burnett's, had provided himself with a deer-stalking rifle, and amused his idle moments by giving Captain Burnett's bottles a benefit.

In 1870 the regiment was armed with the Westley-Richards rifled carbine—a weapon possessing a small bore, but labouring under the disadvantage of a cartridge which does not contain its own ignition. The introduction of this arm, which has been in use till the present year, but is now being replaced by the cavalry Snider carbine, was followed by a new system of skirmishing drill. Of old, as has been said, it was usual to skirmish on horseback, and, with horses untrained to fire-arms as yeomanry horses in those days mostly were, it may be judged that the practice was not of much practical value; in point of fact, the skirmisher's eye was not so much directed at the supposed enemy in front, as upon some available lock of mane whereto to cling when the inevitable plunge took place.

Under the new system, the alternate files dismount with carbines, while their horses are held by the remaining files. The dismounted skirmishers then advance in extended order, and fire from the knee or lying-down position. When driven in, they run back to their horses, and mounting quickly, are able to shift their ground with a rapidity impossible to foot-

soldiers. It became evident that under this system greater attention must be paid to accuracy in firing, and accordingly arrangements were made for holding annual target practice at the ranges belonging to the volunteers in the different districts of the county. The very marked improvement which has taken place since 1872 in the practice of the troops, individually and collectively, will be ascertained by referring to a table of averages to be found in the Appendix.¹ During the spring and summer of 1875, several of the officers, recognising the importance of scientific shooting, met frequently at Prestwick range, near Ayr, and practised themselves in the use of the carbine. It cannot be said, nor indeed could it be expected, that their shooting at this early stage was altogether of the straightest. *A propos*, the author, on one occasion, put up a target in the vicinity of his residence, and invited Colonel Hamilton-Campbell to practise with him of an afternoon. There was no mantlet available, but an old gardener was stationed behind a knoll about fifty yards from the target, for the purpose of signalling where the misses went. Doubtless the practice may have been a little erratic, still both officers were well satisfied with their performances—a satisfaction, however, which was destined ere long to be rudely shaken, for, on returning homewards by way of the stables, they observed their *quondam* marker holding forth to an apparently appreciative audience, and, on passing within earshot, they caught the concluding remark, evidently a summary of what had gone before, viz., “I reckon I might ha’ sot on the top o’ that target!”

In August 1875 a match was arranged between four officers of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry and an equal number of the officers of the Royal Ayr and Wigton Militia, the conditions being ten rounds at 200, 300, and 400 yards, five rounds

¹ Appendix, p. 83.

to be fired with the weapon belonging to their respective corps, and five rounds with weapons exchanged. The match came off at Monkton, and, curiously enough, the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry defeated their opponents with the "Snider," while the Militia, on the other hand, had the best of it with the carbine; the result on the whole being in favour of the Yeomanry by seven points.¹ The establishment of a Rifle Association in Ayrshire during 1875, gave an additional impetus to shooting as well among the Yeomanry as among the Volunteers, the competitions being open to both of these branches of the Reserve Forces. In addition to the ordinary competitions at such meetings, a set of prizes is offered for a contest similar in character to that which is well known as the "Loyd-Lindsay" competition at Wimbledon. The success of this event was from the first assured, and as a training both for men and horses it is of the highest value. The officers, too, who are always anxious to set an example in such matters, subscribed for a challenge cup, which they compete for annually at the same time and under similar conditions. In the ordinary competitions at this meeting the Yeomanry take their own part with their brethren of the Volunteers, the Snider rifle being generally used by them in preference to the Westley-Richards

MILITIA.	Snider.	Carbine.	Total.
¹ Captain Riddell-Carre, . . .	34	32	66
Captain Whigham, . . .	25	29	54
Captain Morton, . . .	37	43	80
Captain Maitland, . . .	29	17	46
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	125	121	246
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
YEOMANRY.			
Colonel Hamilton-Campbell, . .	13	35	48
Captain Kennedy, . . .	49	15	64
Captain Cooper, . . .	37	41	78
Lieutenant Kerr, . . .	35	28	63
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	134	119	253
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

carbine. For example, in the 200 yards competition of 1880, Captain Cooper secured first place with the highest possible score of 35; Sergeants Spier and Stevenson had 32 points each; while Private Eaglesham and Quartermaster-Sergeant Meikle also obtained places in the prize-list with 31 and 30 points respectively.

Encouraged by the success of their own local Loyd-Lindsay competition, the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry have on several occasions sent forth teams to try conclusions with other corps. In September 1874, a squad composed of Corporal Hutchinson, A troop, and Corporal Steele and Privates Gilbert Steele and Spiers, B troop, proceeded to Melrose to take part in the mounted competition of the Border Rifle Association. Three squads of the Border Mounted Rifles competed with the Ayrshire team, and for different reasons the whole of the squads, with the exception of one of the Border Mounted, were disqualified. The Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry failed in completing the course in the specified time, an accident which was due partly to Hutchinson's saddle slipping round at the first hurdle, and partly to the unsteadiness of Gilbert Steele's horse, which delayed him while mounting at the last firing-point.

In 1879 two teams were despatched to Wimbledon to take part in the champion contest. The first squad was composed of Sergeant Wyllie, F troop, and Privates Spier, Walker, and M'Kerrow, B troop; and the second of Sergeant Hunter and Corporal Hutchinson, A troop, and Corporals Steele and Hastings, B troop. The conditions were: To ride over a course of three-quarters of a mile, taking two flights of hurdles in the course, and dismounting and firing five rounds at 500 and 600 yards; the time allowed to complete the course being ten minutes, and a deduction of five points being made for each half-minute over this time. Thirteen squads competed, and the way was shown by the first squad Ayrshire Yeomanry

Cavalry, who went over the ground in dashing style, and finished eight seconds within the specified time; they were, however, somewhat unfortunate at the firing-points. The second Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry squad started at too great a pace, and considerably over-rode the 500 yards firing-point before they could pull up; and on the return journey two of their horses bolted, which was quite sufficient to extinguish any chance they might otherwise have possessed. The first squad Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry finished sixth—just outside the prize list.¹

In no way disheartened by their previous want of success, next year (1880) two squads again appeared at Wimbledon to do battle for the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry; the first squad consisting of the old team, viz., Sergeant Wyllie, F troop, and Privates Spier, Walker, and M'Kerrow, B troop; and the second comprising Corporal Hutchinson, A troop, Corporal Hastings, B troop, and Corporals Steel and Wilson, C troop. The first squad was mounted on as good-looking a lot of horses as appeared on the field, and they cleared the hurdles in grand style. At the targets, however, two members of the team were unfortunate, for while at the short range Wyllie and Spier put on every bullet, the other pair had but one hit out of their ten rounds; at the long range the shooting was somewhat better, the first pair hitting the target six times and the others eight times. In the ride home they got a magnificent reception from the spectators. The second squad also met with unequal

	Time.	Score.	Deduct.	Total.
¹ 1. Royal Devon, . . .	11.10	78	15	63
2. Royal Bucks, . . .	9.40	61	...	61
3. Warwickshire, . . .	11.13	72	15	57
4. Leicestershire, . . .	9.55	42	...	42
5. Oxfordshire, . . .	11.31	61	20	41
Ayrshire (No. 1), . . .	9.52	41	...	41
Ayrshire (No. 2), . . .	12.4	41	35	6

fortune at the targets, for while Hutchinson and Steel had sixteen hits out of twenty rounds, the other pair had but one hit between them. Unfortunately, on the journey to the long range, Steel lost his cap, and, owing to the pace at which his horse was going, he was unable to pull up and recover it without considerable delay, which of course affected the others, who were not at liberty to dismount till he had reached the firing-point; in this way the time allowed was considerably exceeded. In summing up the results it was found that the first squad Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry had gained the second place, and were therefore entitled to the handsome prize of £30, while the second squad were placed sixth, occupying the same position which was held by the first squad in 1879.¹

There is an old story of a colonel of cavalry, who, when asked before a commission what he would do with his carbines when going into action, replied that he would chuck them into the nearest horse-pond. Few cavalry officers of the present day would be prepared to indorse that opinion; and if the carbine be of value to the trained cavalry soldier, of how much more importance is it to an irregular body such as the yeomanry? In the recent and disastrous campaign in the Transvaal, the success of the Boers proved the great value of irregular troops skilled in the use of the rifle, and trained to take advantage of cover. But the rifle or carbine is in itself a useless weapon unless well handled, and to excel in this is an object of ambition among the members of the Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, for they hold the opinion that a yeoman has no *raison d'être* unless he is a good average shot.

	Time.	500	600	Total.	Deduct.	Total.
1. Bucks (No. 2), .	10.38	45	27	72	10	62
2. Ayrshire (No. 1),	11.23	30	33	63	15	48
3. Bucks (No. 1), .	10.32	31	23	54	10	44
Ayrshire (No. 2),	13.0	21	26	47	30	17

APPENDIX.

MUSTER-ROLL, 1803.

TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE EARL OF EGLINTON, HIS
MAJESTY'S LIEUTENANT FOR THE COUNTY OF AYR.

*Muster Roll of the Persons enrolled and serving in the Troop of
Ayrshire Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry commanded by Richard
Alexander Oswald.*

No.	Parish.	Name.	When Enrolled.
1	St. Quivox, .	Richd. Alexr. Oswald, .	September 1802.
2	Maybole, .	Geo. Vanburgh Brown, .	Do.
3	Monkton, .	Alexr. Gairdner, . .	Do.
4	Ayr, . . .	John Chalmer, . . .	Do.
5	"	William Gairdner, . .	Do.
6	"	James Dunlop, . . .	Do.
7	"	William Murdoch, . .	Do.
8	Coilton, .	James M'Fadzean, . .	Do.
9	"	Robert Wilson, . . .	Do.
10	Dalrymple, .	John Hutchison, . . .	Do.
11	"	Andrew Muir,	Do.
12	"	Peter Galbraith, . . .	Do.
13	"	William Kilpatrick, . .	Do.
14	Girvan, . .	John Nicholson, . . .	Do.
15	Kirkoswald, .	William Caldwell, . . .	Do.
16	"	William Bryce,	Do.
17	"	James M'Water,	Do.
18	"	George Neilson,	Do.
19	"	William Brakenridge, . .	Do.
20	"	John Allison,	Do.

MUSTER-ROLL—*continued.*

No.	Parish.	Name.	When Enrolled.
21	Kirkoswald, .	Thomas M'Crakan, .	September 1802.
22	"	John M'Rorie, jun., .	Do.
23	"	Robert Eaglesham, .	Do.
24	"	William Gray, .	Do.
25	"	James Brakenridge, .	Do.
26	Kirkmichael,	William Henderson, .	Do.
27	"	James M'Lymont, .	Do.
28	"	Adam Gray, .	Do.
29	"	George Ronaldson, .	Do.
30	"	John Dick, .	Do.
31	"	Thomas Henderson, .	Do.
32	"	John Ronald, .	Do.
33	"	James Meikle, .	Do.
34	Maybole, .	James Lockhart, .	Do.
35	"	Thomas Campbell, .	Do.
36	"	John Hamilton, .	Do.
37	"	George Reid, .	Do.
38	"	Alexander Cameron, .	Do.
39	"	John Kennedy, .	Do.
40	Ochiltree, .	John Samson, .	Do.
41	"	James Sloan, .	Do.
42	Straiton, .	John Logan, .	Do.
43	"	William Hunter, .	Do.
44	St. Quivox, .	Andrew Hendrie, .	Do.
45	"	James Walker, .	Do.
46	"	John Hendrie, .	Do.
47	"	John Gairdner, .	Do.
48	Torbolton, .	John Dick, .	Do.

Total number in the Troop exempt from serving in the Militia, 48.

I, Richard Alexander Oswald, commanding-officer of the Ayrshire Gentlemen and Yeomanry Cavalry, do hereby certify upon my honour, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed in the forty-second year of his present Majesty's reign, intituled, "An Act to enable his Majesty to avail himself of the offers of certain

Yeomanry and Volunteer Corps to continue their services," that I have not inserted or caused to be inserted in the above Muster-Roll, containing forty-eight names, the name of any person who has not duly attended at the muster of said corps five days at the least in the course of the year next preceding the date hereof.

RICHD. ALEXR. OSWALD, *Capt.-Commandant.*

Dated the 9th day of May 1803.

OFFICER'S OUTFIT, 1804.

FROM ACCOUNTS BELONGING TO CORNET WILLIAM CAMPBELL
OF NETHERPLACE.

Saddlery.

1804, February.	A military saddle,	£4 4 0
" "	A breastplate,	0 5 6
" "	A plated military bridle,	2 0 0
" "	A pair holsters and black bearskin flounce,	2 2 0
" "	A pair straps to do.,	0 1 6
" June	(At Hamilton.) 1 collar with plated ring and buckles,	0 8 6
" "	Front and roses for bridle,	0 1 6

Uniform.

" March.	1 long crimson silk sash,	£3 0 0
" "	Cavalry helmet, leopard skin turban, 2 silver tassels, etc.,	3 13 6
" "	1 white hackle feather,	0 10 6
" "	1 wooden box,	0 2 6
" April.	A pair fine white doeskin breeches,	2 8 0
" "	Paid James Telfer's trustee for cavalry uniform (not detailed),	8 14 3
1806, January.	1 pair blue pantaloons,	1 12 0

NOTE.—Andrew Mitchell, veterinary surgeon, appears to have acted as drill-sergeant to the 2d troop; for, on 26th May 1804, Mr. Campbell pays him a sum of £1, 6s. "for drilling, etc.," being probably a remuneration for preliminary instruction.

Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

MONTHLY RETURN of the Corps of AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CAVALRY, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel RICHARD ALEXANDER OSWALD. 24th October 1806.

TROOPS—3.	COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.						STAFF.			NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.			EFFECTIVE—RANK AND FILE.			WANTING TO COMPLETE.			REMARKS.	
	Present.			Absent.			Surgeon.	Paymaster.	Adjutant.	Quartermaster.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters.	Present—fit for duty.	Absent.	Total.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters.	Rank and File.		
	Major.	Captains.	Lieutenants and Cornets.	Lieut.-Colonel.	Major.	Captains.	Lieutenants and Cornets.	...	...	...	...	...	Present—fit for duty.	Absent.	Total.	Sergeants.	Trumpeters.	Rank and File.		
...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	...	Robt. Wilson, dead.
C. A. Oswald, . . .	...	1	2	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	1	44	51	51	5	5	...	
C. A. Boswell, . . .	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	43	50	50	5	5	...	
C. W. Cunningham, . . .	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	43	49	50	4	4	...	
Total,	1	3	5	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	3	7	3	130	150	154	14	14	...	

One Copy of this Return sent to Major-General Lord Elphinston, and one to Lord Eglinton.

COURT-MARTIAL, 1819.

HEADQUARTERS, AYR, 24th July 1819.

Proceedings of a regimental court-martial held by order of Lieutenant-Colonel Boswell, commanding the First Corps of Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, for the trial of such persons as may be brought before it.

Members.—Major Crawford, President ; Captain Montgomerie, Captain Campbell, Lieutenant Whiteside, and Cornet Hamilton.

The President and members having been duly sworn, proceeded to the trial of David M'Naught, trumpeter, for neglect of duty.

Evidence.—William Cuthbertson, being duly sworn, informs the Court that the prisoner was extremely remiss in his attendance at practice, sometimes being absent a fortnight at a time, contrary to orders delivered to him.

John Grant, being duly sworn, informs the Court that the prisoner has frequently been absent from practice, but he always understood it was owing to some of his ordinary avocations, and that he never knew him intentionally absent when it was in his power to attend ; that he appeared anxious to make up his lost time.

Alexander Cameron, sergeant-major, being duly sworn, informs the Court that the prisoner had Colonel Boswell's leave to be absent from practice when he had occasion to go to the country on his master's employment, as he had bound himself as an apprentice after he was attested, but he had agreed to make up the lost time by double practice on his return.

John Grant, being after called in and examined, and asked by the prisoner if ever he knew him absent six weeks from practice at a time, states to the best of his recollection that Cuthbertson gave them leave for a month, but he never remembers the prisoner absent six weeks at a time.

John Cuthbertson, being duly sworn, informs the Court that he has known the prisoner absent from practice during the regular nights of practice when he was in town, and he is positive he has seen him twice in town when he did not attend ; that he has known the prisoner often come to his father's house to practise when his father was absent, and sometimes practise eight days at a time to make up his lost days of practice.

Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

81

2D TROOP ROLL, 1836.

*A Troop Roll of the 2d Troop of Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry,
11th July 1836.*

Quartermaster J. Murdoch.	William Gibson.
Sergeant James Clark. ¹	James Gardner.
Sergeant Wm. Reynolds.	Adam Grieve.
Sergeant James Weir.	40 Robert Harper.
5 Sergeant James Dain.	William Hunter.
Corporal John Crichton.	William Hood.
Corporal John Orr.	James Jack.
Trumpeter John Grant.	James Loudon.
Privates Wm. Anderson.	45 Wm. Lymburner.
10 Robt. Allen.	Wm. M'Kerrow.
Alexr. Arthur.	Archibald M'Kenzie.
John Arthur.	John Murphy.
William Arthur.	Wm. M'Kerrow, for Wm.
James Baird.	Hutchison.
15 Robt. Baird, resigned.	50 James M'Lanachan.
John Bell.	John M'Lanachan.
John Black.	John Murdoch.
David Brown.	James Mitchell.
Hugh Brown.	John Mowan.
20 Robt. Barr.	55 Thomas Munro.
David Barclay.	William Orr.
James Boyd.	John Park.
Adam Begg.	William Peden, resigned.
Frederick Crichton.	J. H. Parker.
25 James Crichton, for Vallance.	60 Thomas Riddell.
Robt. Craig.	John Strahorn.
James Munro, for R. Craig.	Duncan Robinson.
George Cowan.	John Smith, 1st.
John Cuthbertson.	John Smith, 2d.
30 James Dinning.	65 James Smith.
John Dickie.	James Sloan.
James Douglas.	Hugh Sloan.
David Dinning.	Robt. Steel.
John Dunlop.	James Shankland.
35 John Dow, band.	70 Hugh Templeton.
Alexr. Faulds.	James Templeton, 1st.

¹ Drill-Sergeant.

James Templeton, 2d.	Hugh Wyllie.
William Wallace.	John Wardrop.
Robt. Wallace.	Thos. Wardrop.
75 David Wilson.	80 John Young.
Hugh Wilson.	

OFFICERS' CHALLENGE CUP.

(RACING.)

Won by

1855. Colonel Fairlie's	Revenge.
1856. Captain Burnett's	Blackfoot.
1858. Captain Burnett's	Whitefoot.
1859. Captain and Adjutant Calvert's	Tommy.
1861. Lieutenant C. G. Shaw's	The Duke.
1862. Captain R. F. F. Campbell's	Star.
1863. Captain C. G. Shaw's	The Duke.
1864. Lieutenant Hunter's	Lubra.
1865. Cornet Cooper's	Black Margaret.
1866. Captain R. F. F. Campbell's	Hard Lines.
¹ 1868. Cornet Cuninghame's	Reel.
1869. Lieutenant John F. Patrick's	Sandy.
1870. Lieutenant Cuninghame's	Ali-Baba.
1871. Lieutenant J. Cuninghame's	Exeter.
1872. Lieutenant W. J. Smith Neil's	Poacher.
² 1874. Captain W. P. Adam's	Diamond.
1875. Captain Cooper's	Soubrette.
1876. Captain Cooper's	Soubrette.
³ 1877. Captain Cooper's	Rattle.
1878. Lieutenant Finnie's	Mistletoe.
1880. Lieutenant Finnie's	Mistletoe.

¹ In a half-mile match this year, Lieutenant John F. Patrick's Hartley beat Captain Somervell's the Queen.

² There was no race for the cup in 1873, but a match took place between Captain Cooper's Friday, 12 st. 11 lb., and Captain W. R. Patrick's Mabel, 12 st. 4 lb., which was won by the former.

³ The cup having been won three times in succession, became the property of Captain Cooper, who returned it to the regiment, and was presented by his brother officers with a cup as a memento of the occurrence.

OFFICERS' CHALLENGE CUP.
 ("LOYD-LINDSAY" COMPETITION.)

Won by

- 1875. Captain W. S. Cooper.
- 1876. Lieutenant W. D. Russell.
- 1877. Lieutenant J. Kennedy.
- 1878. Lieutenant J. Kennedy.
- 1879. Lieutenant W. D. Russell.
- 1880. Lieutenant G. Colvin White.

STATEMENT showing the Average Figure of Merit obtained by each Troop at Carbine Practice for each of the nine years 1872 to 1880 inclusive.

TROOP.	1872.	1873.	1874.	1875.	1876.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.
A,	18·43	13·48	18·72	23·09	25·16	23·23	33·06	33·00	32·43
B,	17·31	15·97	24·40	22·23	24·00	30·39	33·68	34·31	36·61
C,	16·66	16·25	22·81	26·69	27·07	29·85	33·04	34·00	35·62
D,	16·76	23·56	27·22	21·48	26·18	31·00	32·15	32·09	29·91
E,	11·12	17·15	21·17	21·34	23·26	21·80	31·60	35·37	30·00
F,	13·93	18·00	22·22	20·29	23·10	23·65	27·26	30·89	27·44
G,	16·59	14·86	24·83	24·22	24·12	30·11	36·44	38·38	36·22
H,	12·20	16·47	18·25	23·66	23·09	32·88	35·66	33·55	33·79
Average of the Regiment, . . }	15·37	16·96	22·45	22·87	24·49	27·86	32·86	33·62	32·75

Average for the Nine Years.

- G, 27·30 H, 25·50
- C, 26·88 A, 24·51
- D, 26·70 E, 23·64
- B, 26·54 F, 22·97

Average of the regiment, . . . 25·50.

Note.—The practice takes place at 100, 200, and 300 yards, five rounds at each distance, the position at 100 yards being “standing,” and at 200 and 300 yards, “any.” In 1880, the rectangular bull’s-eye and centre, of 2 feet by 1 foot and 4 feet by 2 feet respectively, were discarded in favour of the circular bull’s-eye of 1 foot and centre of 3 feet diameter.

BEST SHOT.

1875,	. . .	Corporal Howat,	. . .	C Troop.
1876,	. . .	Sergeant Wyllie,	. . .	F Troop.
1877,	. . .	Sergeant Spier,	. . .	G Troop.
1878,	. . .	Private Wm. Clark,	. . .	E Troop.
1879,	. . .	Sergeant Speir,	. . .	G Troop.
1880,	. . .	Q.-M.-S. Meikle,	. . .	H Troop.

“LOYD-LINDSAY” COMPETITION.

	Score.
1875,	. . . A Troop, . . . 90
¹ 1876,	. . . H Troop, . . . 97
² 1877,	. . . C Troop, . . . 78
1878,	. . . A Troop, . . . 69
1879,	. . . C Troop, . . . 91
³ 1880,	. . . E Troop, . . . 34

BEST SWORDSMAN.

1878,	. .	Sergeant John Craig,	. .	H Troop.
1879,	. .	Corporal Campbell,	. .	D Troop.
1880,	. .	Corporal Borland,	. .	G Troop.

¹ An occasion which was rendered memorable by the feat of Q.-M.-S. Meikle of H Troop, who, after crossing a hurdle at full speed, pulled a falling comrade back into his saddle.

² This year the distances were increased from 200 and 400 yards to 400 and 500 yards.

³ The distances were further increased to 500 and 600 yards.

SUCCESSION LIST OF OFFICERS, AYRSHIRE
YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

CAPTAINS COMMANDANT.

Earl of Cassillis, 1793-1801.

Richard Alexander Oswald (of Auchincruive), 1801.

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS COMMANDANT.

Richard Alexander Oswald, 1803-1816.

Sir Alexander Boswell, Bart. (of Auchinleck), 1816-1822.—Captain, 1803; Major 1815.

Robert Craufurd (of Newfield), *late* Captain, 7th Hussars, 1822-1842.—Major, 1816. Served with distinction in Spain.

William Montgomerie (of Annick Lodge), 1842-1846.—Captain, 1817; Major, 1822.

James Fairlie (of Holmes), 1846-1860.—Lieutenant, 1817; Captain, 1818; Major, 1842.

James Ogilvy Fairlie (of Coodham), *late* 2d Life Guards, 1860-1869.—Cornet, 1829; Lieutenant, 1831; Captain, 1843.

Earl of Eglinton and Winton, 1869-1871.—Captain, 1862; Major, 1865.

John Hamilton (of Sundrum), *late* E. I. C. Navy, 1871-1872.—Cornet, 1841; Lieutenant, 1842; Captain, 1856; Major, 1861; Lieutenant-Colonel, 1867. Is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel, Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

John Reginald Houison-Craufurd (of Craufurdland), *late* Austrian Cavalry, 1872-1873.—Cornet, 1842; Lieutenant, 1845; Captain, 1857; Major, 1867. Is a retired Lieutenant-Colonel, Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

Charles Vereker Hamilton-Campbell (of Netherplace), *late* Captain, East Indian Army, 1873; now serving.—Cornet, 1850; Lieutenant, 1852; Captain, 1859; Major, 1869. War services:—Served throughout the Sutlej Campaign in 1845, including the battles of Moodkee, Ferozeshah (where he was wounded), and Sobraon: medal and two clasps for 1845. Also with the army of the Punjab in 1849; was present at Ramnuggur, and also in the actions of Chillianwalla and Goozerat: medal and two clasps for 1849.

LIEUTENANT-COLONELS.

Sir Charles Lamb, Bart. (of Beauport), 1846-1859.—Lieutenant, 1821; Captain, 1822; Major, 1843.
George James Campbell (of Treesbank), 1859-1867.—Cornet, 1821; Lieutenant, 1828; Captain, 1842; Major, 1855.

MAJORS.

George James Campbell (of Treesbank), 1805-1815.—Capt., 1803.
Sir James Boswell, Bart. (of Auchinleck), 1846-1855.—Cornet, 1824; Lieutenant, 1828; Captain, 1842.
Richard Frederick Fotheringham Campbell (of Craigie), *late* Captain, 8th Madras Cavalry, 1873; now serving.—Cornet, 1859; Captain, 1862. War services:—Served on the staff during the Indian Mutiny in 1857-8; was orderly officer of the 2d Cavalry Brigade, and Aide-de-Camp to the General commanding at Cawnpore; present at the taking of Lucknow, and in various engagements before and after that event.

CAPTAINS.

W. Cunninghame (of Enterkine), 1803-1811.
Alexander Oswald, 1806-1815.—Lieutenant, 1804.
Alexander Gairdner (of Ladykirk), 1816.—Lieutenant, 1804.
John Taylor (of Blackhouse), 1811.—Lieutenant, 1808.
David Limond (of Dalblair), 1815-1817.—Cornet, 1811.
A. C. B. Craufurd (of Ardmillan), 1815-1817.
Robert Cunyngham (of Cloncaird), 1817-1821.
W. G. Campbell (of Fairfield), 1817-1828.

- Richard Oswald (yr. of Auchincruive), 1820-1834.
Sir Charles D. Fergusson, Bart. (of Kilkerran), 1821-1842.—
Lieutenant, 1821.
John Hamilton, *late* Captain, 2d Ayrshire Yeomanry, 1828-1829.
Marquis of Hastings, 1828-1842.
Earl of Eglinton, 1828-1842.—Cornet, 1828.
James Campbell (of Craigie), 1834-1842. Lieutenant, 1817.
Robert Hunter (of Hunterston), *late* Captain, 2d Ayrshire Yeomanry,
1842-1858.—Lieutenant and Captain, 1829.
Marquis of Ailsa, 1842-1852.
Patrick Boyle (of Shewalton), 1842-1856.—Cornet, 1828; Lieu-
tenant, 1831.
Charles Lamb, 1846-1848.—Cornet, 1831; Lieutenant, 1834.
Thomas Smith-Cuninghame (of Caprington), 1848-1857.—Cornet,
1834; Lieutenant, 1842.
J. Joseph Burnett (of Gadgirth), 1852-1861.—Cornet, 1834;
Lieutenant, 1842.
R. Robertson Glasgow (of Montgreenan), 1855-1860.—Cornet,
1837; Lieutenant, 1842.
Robert Gairdner, 1859-1865.—Cornet, 1845; Lieutenant, 1846.
Hugh Hamilton (of Pinmore), *late* 1st Dragoon Guards, 1861-
1865.—Lieutenant, 1855.
William Lang (of Groatholm), 1861-1868.—Lieutenant, 1855.
Charles G. Shaw, 1861-1875.—Cornet, 1854; Lieutenant, 1857.
Retired with permission to retain his rank and to wear the
uniform of the regiment.
W. P. Adam (of Tour), 1865; now serving.—Cornet, 1857;
Lieutenant, 1859.
R. M. Pollok (of Middleton), p.s., 1865; now serving.—Cornet,
1857; Lieutenant, 1859.
John Bell (of Enterkine), 1865-1872.—Cornet, 1859; Lieut., 1860.
Evan Allan Hunter, 1867-1871.—Cornet, 1861; Lieut., 1862.
James Somervell (yr. of Sorn), p., 1868; now serving.—Cornet,
1861; Lieutenant, 1864.
Thomas Mure Mure (of Perceton), p., 1869-1876.—Cornet, 1861;
Lieutenant, 1865. Killed in the railway accident at Abbot's
Ripton, January 1876.

- W. Ralston Patrick (of Trearne), 1871 ; now serving.—Cornet, 1861 ; Lieutenant, 1865.
- F. T. R. Kennedy (of Dunure), *p.*, 1873 ; now serving.—Cornet, 1863 ; Lieutenant, 1867.
- J. F. Patrick (of Grangehill), *p.*, 1873 ; now serving.—Cornet, 1862 ; Lieutenant, 1865.
- W. S. Cooper (of Failford), *p.*, 1875 ; now serving.—Cornet, 1863 ; Lieutenant, 1867.
- R. Douglas Murdoch, *p.s.*, 1876 ; now serving.—Cornet, 1865 ; Lieutenant, 1871.

Note.—The letters *p.s.* after an officer's name denote that he has passed the school of instruction ; the letter *p.* that he has attended a regiment of cavalry, and obtained a certificate of proficiency.

LIEUTENANTS.

- George Chalmer, 1804.
- Thomas Miller (son of Lord Glenlee), 1811.—Cornet, 1804.
- Richard Campbell, 1808.—Cornet, 1804.
- Philip Whiteside, 1811-1817.—Cornet, 1804.
- George Taylor (of Blackhouse), 1811.—Cornet, 1808.
- William Campbell, 1817.—Cornet, 1815.
- John Miller (son of Lord Glenlee), 1817.—Cornet, 1815.
- William Whiteside, 1817-1829. — Cornet, 1815. Appointed Surgeon.
- John Campbell (of Sornbeg), 1818.—Cornet, 1817.
- Charles D. Gairdner, 1818-1821.
- Alexander Hamilton (of the Castle, Mauchline), 1824-1828.—Cornet, 1818.
- Hugh Cowan, 1824-1829.
- P. W. Kennedy, 1829-1837.—Cornet, 1825.
- David Campbell, 1831-1837.
- Sir Alex. Montgomery Cuninghame, Bart. (of Corsehill), 1831-1842.—Cornet, 1824.
- William Hamilton, 1831-1845.—Cornet, 1828.
- Robert Duncan Fergusson, 1831.—Cornet, 1831.
- John Gray Farquhar (yr. of Gilmilnscroft), 1831-1834.—Cornet, 1831.

- J. Stuart Hay (afterwards of Newton), 1837-1842.—Cornet, 1831.
Sir John Cathcart, Bart. (of Carleton), 1837-1853.
Robert Fergusson, 1842-1844.
Alexander Oswald, 1842-1846.
J. Douglas Boswell (of Garallan), 1842-1846.—Cornet, 1834.
Patrick Warner (of Ardeer), 1844-1854.—Cornet, 1841.
Hon. John Kennedy, 1845-1846.—Cornet, 1842.
William Cochran Patrick (of Ladyland), 1846-1858.—Cornet, 1842.
George Montgomerie Cuninghame (of Barbieston), 1846-1854.
Henry Hughes Onslow (of Balkissock), 1846-1849.—Cornet, 1843.
Archibald Cuninghame (of Thorntoun), 1848-1854.—Cornet, 1846.
Walter Ferrier Hamilton (of Cairnhill), *late* 83d Foot, 1852-1870.
—Cornet, 1847.
R. P. Paterson (yr. of Montgomerie), 1853-1862.—Cornet, 1850.
Archibald Finnie, 1854-1861.—Cornet, 1852.
W. A. Orr Paterson, 1854-1864.—Cornet, 1852.
Sir James Fergusson, Bart. (of Kilkerran), *late* Dragoon Guards,
1855-1861.—Cornet, 1852.
John Spier, 1856-1858.—Cornet, 1854.
Claud Alexander (of Ballochmyle), Captain and Lieutenant-Colonel
Grenadier Guards, 1859-1864.—Cornet, 1856.
John Crichton (of Linn), 1859-1867.—Cornet, 1856.
Lord Rendlesham, 1865-1870.—Cornet, 1862.
William M. Alexander, 1868-1869.—Cornet, 1864.
William Smith Neill (of Swindridgemuir), *late* 2d Captain Royal
Artillery, 1869-1875.—Cornet, 1865.
John Cuninghame, 1869-1876.—Cornet, 1865.
Richard Kerr (of Cunninghamhead), *p.s.*, 1871; now serving.—
Cornet, 1865.
Charles Cuningham (yr. of Fairlie), 1871-1875.—Cornet, 1867.
Arthur W. Ball, *late* Lieutenant, 8th Hussars, 1873-1874.—Cornet,
1870.
John A. Smith Cuninghame (yr. of Caprington), *p.*, 1873-1876.—
Cornet, 1871.
John Kennedy (yr. of Underwood), 1873; now serving.—Cornet,
1872.
John C. C. Hamilton (yr. of Sundrum), 1873-1875.

Archibald Finnie (of Springhill), *p.*, 1873 ; now serving.
 William D. Russell (of Maulside), *p.s.*, 1875 ; now serving.
 Henry Houldsworth (*p.s.*), 1875 ; now serving.
 William S. Wilson (*p.s.*), 1875 ; now serving.
 Leveson G. Campbell (yr. of Fairfield), *p.s.*, 1876 ; now serving.

SECOND LIEUTENANTS.

John C. C. Hamilton (yr. of Sundrum), 1880 ; now serving.
 George Colvin White, 1880 ; now serving.

CORNETS.

— Hamilton, 1804.
 William Campbell (of Netherplace), 1804-1808.
 Elias Cathcart (of Auchendrane), 1817-1821.
 William Cowan, 1817-1821.
 John Crawford, 1818.
 Spencer Boyd (of Penkill), 1822-1824.
 W. Ingleby Campbell (yr. of Fairfield), 1829-1831.
 John Buchanan, 1831-1837.
 James Macalester (of Kennox), 1831-1841.
 William Gordon (of Milrig), 1837-1839.
 George Bogle (of Rosemount), 1839-1841.
 W. Allison Cuningham, 1842.
 Leveson Granville Campbell (of Fairfield), 1845-1847.
 Andrew Cathcart (Carleton), 1847-1855.
 Lord F. Kennedy, 1848-1850.
 Lord N. Kennedy, 1849-1850.
 William H. Dunlop (of Annanhill), 1850-1855.
 Robert S. Patrick, 1859-1861.
 Patrick Warner (of Ardeer), 1861-1863.
 George Dykes, 1864-1869.
 Richard Alexander Oswald (of Auchincruive), 1869-1870.
 Frederick Gordon Blair (yr. of Blair), 1869-1875.

ADJUTANTS.

William Allison Smith, *late* 7th Hussars, 1807.
 Augustus Bressan Calvert, *late* 2d Dragoon Guards, 1844.

Edward Phillips, *late* Major, 8th Dragoons, 1861.
John Lorn Stewart, Brevet-Major, 18th Hussars, 1873.
J. F. Stuart Menteth, Captain, 2d Dragoon Guards, 1878; now
serving.

CHAPLAINS.

Rev. Dr. M'Quhae, 1822.
Rev. D. Campbell, 1824.
Rev. Dr. M'Leod, 1825.
Rev. J. C. Jamieson, 1844.

SURGEONS.

P. Whiteside, 1804.
William Whiteside, 1829-1862.—Cornet, 1815.
J. Campbell Haldane, 1862.—Assistant-Surgeon, 1859.
John Ronald, 1872.
William J. Naismith, 1877; now serving.

ASSISTANT SURGEON.

James Lindsay Crawford, 1849.

VETERINARY SURGEONS.

William Aitken, 1836.
James Dickie, 1876; now serving.

OMITTED.

LIEUTENANTS.

Hon. G. F. Boyle (Earl of Glasgow), 1850-1852.—Cornet, 1847.
G. J. Campbell (yr. of Treesbank), 1852-1854.—Cornet, 1847.

SUCCESSION LIST OF OFFICERS,
2D OR CUNNINGHAM AND CUMNOCK REGIMENT.

(1817—1827.)

COMMANDANTS.

- W. H. Craufurd (of Craufurdland), Major-Commandant, 1817-1819.
John Ferrier Hamilton (of Cairnhill), *late* Captain, 3d Dragoon Guards.—Major-Commandant, 1819; Lieutenant-Colonel, 1821-1827.—Served through the Peninsular campaign, for which he received a war medal and three clasps.

MAJOR.

- John Logan (of Knockshinnoch), 1821-1827.—Captain, 1817.

CAPTAINS.

- David Limond, *late* Captain, Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1817.
A. C. B. Craufurd, *late* Captain, Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1817-1823.
John Hamilton, 1820-1827.
Hugh Brown (of Broadstone), 1820-1827.—Lieutenant, 1817.
Claud Alexander (of Ballochmyle), 1820-1827.
Andrew Hunter (of Doonholm), 1821-1827.
James Dunlop (of Annanhill), 1823-1827.—Lieutenant, 1817.
Robert Hunter (of Hunterston), 1827.

LIEUTENANTS.

- David Shaw, 1817-1825.
Thomas Ranken (of Glenlogan), 1820-1824.—Cornet, 1817.

William Dunlop (Annanhill), 1820-1827.

William Campbell (of Netherplace), *late* Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1820-1825.

James Caldwell (of Milton), 1823-1827.—Cornet, 1817.

Charles D. Gardner, *late* Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry, 1825-1827.

George Douglas (of Rodinghead), 1825-1827.—Cornet, 1824.

Adam Crichton, 1825-1827.—Cornet, 1818.

CORNETS.

Patrick M'Glashan, 1817.

George Ranken (Glenlogan), 1820-1821.

Alexander Aird (of Crossflat), 1821-1827.

Boyd Alexander, 1821-1827.

Alexander Greenshields (of Kerse), 1823-1827.

Martin Thomas Paterson, 1824-1827.

John White (Kameshill), 1825-1827.

CHAPLAIN.

Rev. Dr. Stirling (of Craigie), 1821-1827.

SURGEONS.

William Donaldson, 1817-1824; appointed to Royal Ayrshire Militia.

John Richmond, 1824-1827.

AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CAVALRY.

NOMINAL ROLL OF STAFF, 1st July 1880.

Rank and Name.		Residence.
Lieut.-Col. Command- ant, }	Hamilton Campbell, C. V., .	Netherplace, Mauchline.
Major, .	Campbell, R. F. F., . .	Craigie House, Ayr.
Adjutant— Captain, }	Menteth, J. F. S., . .	Savoy Cottage, Ayr.
Surgeon, .	Naismith, W. J., . .	Alloway Place, Ayr.
Vet.-Surgeon,	Dickie, J.,	High Street, Ayr.

NOMINAL ROLL OF "A," OF CAPTAIN F. T. R. KENNEDY'S TROOP,
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Kennedy, F. T. R., . . .	Dalquharran, Maybole.
2	Lieut.,	Wilson, W. S., . . .	Riverston, Ayr.
3	Qr.-M.,	Campbell, H., . . .	Maybole.
4	T.-S.-M.,	Riddle, J., . . .	Do.
5	Sergeant,	Headley, J., . . .	Girvan.
6	"	Hunter, R., . . .	Ayr.
7	"	Ronald, C., . . .	Maybole.
8	Corporal,	Gilmour, W., . . .	Barr.
9	"	Hutchinson, J., . . .	Maybole.
10	"	Hannah, J., . . .	Ayr.
11	Private,	Anderson, J., . . .	Patna.
12	"	Anderson, H., . . .	Maybole.
13	"	Anderson, J., . . .	Do.
14	"	Adams, J., . . .	Ayr.
15	"	Allen, W., . . .	Ballantrae.
16	"	Alston, J., . . .	Maybole.
17	"	Brisbane, W., . . .	Do.
18	"	Campbell, J., . . .	Do.
19	Lc.-Corp.,	Dunn, W., . . .	Kirkmichael.
20	Private,	Douglas, H., . . .	Maybole.
21	"	Eaglesham, J., . . .	Do.
22	"	Fulton, J., . . .	Do.
23	"	Garrand, W., . . .	Kirkmichael.
24	"	Gibson, J., . . .	Do.
25	Lc.-Corp.,	Harper, R., . . .	Maybole.
26	Private,	Henderson, J., . . .	Do.
27	"	Hunter, A., . . .	Do.
28	"	Hutchinson, R., . . .	Do.
29	"	Logan, R., . . .	Kirkmichael.
30	"	Murchie, H., . . .	Dalrymple.
31	"	Muir, J., . . .	Maybole.
32	"	M'Culloch, H., . . .	Patna.
33	"	M'Murray, J., . . .	Do.
34	Lc.-Corp.,	Nevin, R., . . .	Maybole.
35	Private,	Pollock, J., . . .	Patna.
36	"	Robson, J., . . .	Ayr.
37	"	Ronald, C., . . .	Maybole.
38	Lc.-Corp.,	Smith, J., . . .	Do.
39	Private,	Shaw, J., . . .	Do.
40	"	Templeton, J., . . .	Patna.
41	"	Wylie, W., . . .	Maybole.
42	"	Wylie, P., . . .	Do.
43	"	Wright, D., . . .	Do.

¹ From 2d Dragoons (Scots Greys), 1st May 1879.

NOMINAL ROLL OF "B," OF CAPTAIN J. F. PATRICK'S TROOP,
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Patrick, J. F.,	Grangehill, Beith.
2	Lieut.,	Kennedy, J.,	Underwood, Kilmarnock.
3	"	Houldsworth, H.,	Carrick House, Ayr.
4	Qr.-Mr.,	M'Murtrie, J.,	Ayr.
5	R. S.-M.,	¹ Pope, E. H.,	Do.
6	Sergeant,	Baird, J.,	Do.
7	"	Reide, J.,	St. Quivox.
8	"	M'Cartney, G.,	Stair.
9	Corporal,	Brackenridge, J.,	Dalrymple.
10	"	Kay, W.,	St. Quivox.
11	"	Steele, J.,	Ayr.
12	Private,	Anderson, J.,	St. Quivox.
13	"	Baird, J.,	Ayr.
14	"	Blair, J.,	Dalrymple.
15	"	Bone, W.,	St. Quivox.
16	"	Brackenridge, J.,	Ayr.
17	"	Conkie, J.,	Do.
18	"	Cathcart, J.,	Monkton.
19	"	Caldwell, R.,	St. Quivox.
20	Lc.-Corp.,	Cunningham, T.,	Do.
21	"	Davidson, H.,	Ayr.
22	Private,	Duncan, J.,	St. Quivox.
23	"	Findlayson, J.,	Ayr.
24	"	Gerrand, W.,	Dalrymple.
25	"	Gemmell, A.,	Ayr.
26	Lc.-Corp.,	Hastings, D.,	Do.
27	Private,	Hall, C.,	Do.
28	"	Hendrie, J.,	Prestwick.
29	"	Hihett, R.,	Ayr.
30	"	Hislop, D.,	Do.
31	"	Hood, W.,	Ochiltree.
32	"	Lamont, J.,	St. Quivox.
33	"	Lamont, J.,	Ayr.
34	"	Mair, J.,	Do.
35	"	Martin, J.,	Dalrymple.
36	"	Mathewson, J.,	Ayr.
37	"	M'Master, J.,	Do.
38	"	M'Kerrow, W.,	Do.
39	"	M'Cirrick, H.,	Do.
40	"	M'Ilwraith, J.,	Do.
41	"	M'Ilwraith, J.,	Coylton.
42	"	Milligan, Ivie,	Ayr.

¹ From 2d Dragoons (Scots Greys), 1st June 1877.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
43	Lc.-Corp.,	Murdoch, W.,	Stair.
44	Private,	Murdoch, W.,	Ayr.
45	"	Murdoch, C.,	Do.
46	"	M'Clelland, J.,	Do.
47	"	Neil, T.,	Do.
48	"	O'Neil, H.,	Do.
49	"	Patterson, G.,	Do.
50	"	Patterson, A.,	Do.
51	"	Pollock, R.,	Dalrymple.
52	"	Reide, J.,	St. Quivox.
53	"	Robertson, A.,	Ayr.
54	"	Speirs, J.,	Do.
55	"	Sutherland, A.,	Do.
56	"	Steele, G.,	Do.
57	"	Strathern, J.,	St. Quivox.
58	"	Shearer, J.,	Do.
59	"	Taylor, R.,	Ayr.
60	"	Tennant, J.,	Do.
61	"	Thicket, J.,	Do.
62	"	Walker, J.,	Do.
63	"	Watson, T.,	Do.
64	"	White, H.,	Do.
65	"	White, W.,	Do.
66	"	Wright, R.,	St. Quivox.
67	"	Wylie, J.,	Ayr.

NOMINAL ROLL OF "C," OR CAPTAIN W. S. COOPER'S TROOP.
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Cooper, W. S.,	Failford, Tarbolton.
2	2d Lieut.,	Hamilton, J. C. C.,	Sundrum, Ayr.
3	Qr.-Mr.,	Murray, J.,	Old Cumnock.
4	T.-S.-M.,	¹ Smith, W.,	Ayr.
5	Sergeant,	Brown, Q.,	Ochiltree.
6	"	Walsh, G.,	New Cumnock.
7	"	Weir, J.,	Do.
8	Corporal,	Brown, R.,	Ochiltree.
9	"	Miller, G.,	Do.
10	"	M'Knight, D.,	Kirkmichael.
11	Trumptr.,	Farquharson, R.,	Ayr.
12	Private,	Alexander, H.,	Auchinleck.
13	"	Alexander, J.,	Do.
14	"	Bowden, E.,	Old Cumnock.
15	"	Bryson, M.,	Mauchline.
16	"	Brown, J.,	Ochiltree.
17	"	Brown, Q. (1),	Do.
18	"	Brown, Q. (2),	Do.
19	Lc.-Corp.,	Brown, W.,	Do.
20	Private,	Craig, J. (1),	Old Cumnock.
21	"	Craig, J. (2),	New Cumnock.
22	"	Cowan, J.,	Ochiltree.
23	"	Craig, D.,	Old Cumnock.
24	"	Duncan, J.,	Ochiltree.
25	"	Gammel, J.,	Do.
26	"	Haddow, W.,	Old Cumnock.
27	"	Howat, A.,	Do.
28	"	Howat, W.,	Ochiltree.
29	Lc.-Corp.,	Howat, H.,	Do.
30	Private,	Jamison, J.,	Auchinleck.
31	"	Jameson, J.,	Do.
32	"	M'Kerrow, D.,	Do.
33	"	M'Mann, T.,	Muirkirk.
34	"	Montgomerie, J.,	Ochiltree.
35	"	Mitchell, W.,	Do.
36	"	Monkhouse, J.,	Ayr.
37	"	Murdoch, D.,	New Cumnock.
38	"	Murdoch, J.,	Ochiltree.
39	"	Peden, J.,	Auchinleck.
40	"	Peden, G.,	Lorn.
41	"	Reide, J.,	Auchinleck.

¹ From 2d Dragoon Guards (Queen's Bays), January 1860.

Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
42	Private,	Reide, D. M.,	Old Cumnock.
43	,,	Robb, J.,	Ochiltree.
44	,,	Sampson, W.,	Auchinleck.
45	,,	Steele, J.,	New Cumnock.
46	Lc.-Corp.,	Steele, W.,	Do.
47	Private,	Sloan, A.,	New Cumnock.
48	,,	Sloan, J.,	Ochiltree.
49	,,	Sloan, W.,	Auchinleck.
50	,,	Shankland, J.,	Old Cumnock.
51	,,	Sloan, G.,	Ochiltree.
52	,,	Sharp, H.,	New Cumnock.
53	,,	Wilson, J.,	Old Cumnock.
54	,,	Wilson, D.,	Ochiltree.
55	,,	Wallace, R.,	Do.
56	,,	Wallace, W.,	Do.
57	,,	Wardrop, J.,	Old Cumnock.
58	,,	Wallace, W.,	Ochiltree.
59	,,	Young, J.,	New Cumnock.

NOMINAL ROLL OF "D" OR CAPTAIN J. SOMERVELL'S TROOP.
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Somervell, J.,	Sorn Castle, Mauchline.
2	Lieut.,	Campbell, L. G.,	Alyn Derwyn, Rossett, near Wrexham.
3	Qr.-Mr.,	Neil, R.,	Tarbolton.
4	T.-S.-M.,	Gilea, W.,	Mauchline.
5	Sergeants,	Drennan, J.,	Tarbolton.
6	"	M'Kerrow, G.,	Sorn.
7	"	Gray, D.,	Tarbolton.
8	Corporals,	Morton, G.,	Sorn.
9	"	Campbell, J.,	Tarbolton.
10	"	Sloan, J.,	Sorn.
11	"	Allan, W.,	Mauchline.
12	"	Andrews, J.,	Tarbolton.
13	"	Baird, J.,	Sorn.
14	"	Baird, J.,	Do.
15	"	Bone, R.,	Do.
16	"	Borland, T.,	Mauchline.
17	"	Borland, F.,	Do.
18	"	Brownlie, J.,	Do.
19	"	Brown, W.,	Tarbolton.
20	"	Drennan, R.,	Do.
21	"	Drummond, W.,	Do.
22	"	Eaglesham, D.,	Craigie.
23	"	Gemmell, T.,	Mauchline.
24	"	Gemmell, C.,	Do.
25	"	Green, E. H.,	Ayr.
26	"	Howie, J.,	Tarbolton.
27	"	Hunter, G.,	Mauchline.
28	Lc.-Corp.,	Kerr, J.,	Sorn.
29	Private,	Mair, J.,	Mauchline.
30	"	Murdoch, M.,	Do.
31	"	M'Dougal, R.,	Ayr.
32	"	M'Kay, J.,	Tarbolton.
33	"	M'Lymont, J.,	Do.
34	Lc.-Corp.,	Neil, R.,	Do.
35	Private,	Patton, A.,	Do.
36	"	Ramsay, J.,	Do.
37	"	Reide, J.,	Stair.
38	"	Sloan, C. A.,	Sorn.
39	"	Symington, J.,	Tarbolton.
40	"	Symington, J.,	Do.
41	"	Smith, A.,	Do.
42	"	Watson, A.,	Stair.
43	"	Watson, J.,	Sorn.
44	Lc.-Corp.,	Young, J.,	Tarbolton.
45	Private,	Young, R.,	Mauchline.

¹ From 18th Hussars, 1st May 1877.

Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

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NOMINAL ROLL OF "E," OR CAPTAIN R. D. MURDOCH'S TROOP.
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Murdoch, R. D., . . .	Fairfield Lodge, Ayr.
2	Lieut.,	White, G. C., . . .	Newark, Ayr.
3	Qr.-Mr.,	Hunter, W., . . .	Craigie.
4	T.-S.-M.,	¹ Tucker, A., . . .	Kilmarnock.
5	Sergeant,	Gibson, J., . . .	Galston.
6	"	M'Latchie, A., . . .	Craigie.
7	"	Auld, D., . . .	Galston.
8	Corporal,	Taylor, J., . . .	Ayr.
9	"	Young, J., . . .	Symington.
10	"	Nairn, W., . . .	Craigie.
11	Private,	Andrews, J., . . .	Monkton.
12	"	Auld, W., . . .	Galston.
13	"	Barclay, J., . . .	Do.
14	"	Cameron, A., . . .	Do.
15	Lc.-Corp.,	Clark, W., . . .	Monkton.
16	Private,	Ferguson, J., . . .	Prestwick.
17	"	Findlay, F., . . .	New Milns.
18	"	Glover, R., . . .	Craigie.
19	"	Hight, H., . . .	Kilmarnock.
20	"	Hopkins, R., . . .	Craigie.
21	"	Hopkins, W., . . .	Do.
22	"	Howat, M., . . .	Darvel.
23	"	Hunter, H., . . .	Prestwick.
24	"	King, P., . . .	Do.
25	"	Lennox, W., . . .	Newmilns.
26	"	Lothead, J., . . .	Darvel.
27	"	Mason, A., . . .	Kilmarnock.
28	"	Maxwell, R., . . .	Galston.
29	"	Meikle, R., . . .	Do.
30	"	M'Adam, F., . . .	Kilmarnock.
31	"	M'Hallam, F., . . .	Prestwick.
32	Lc.-Corp.,	Mitchell, W., . . .	Galston.
33	Private,	Morton, J., . . .	Kilmarnock.
34	"	Neil, J., . . .	Galston.
35	"	Reide, J., . . .	Ayr.
36	"	Shaw, C., . . .	Do.
37	"	Shields, R., . . .	Newmilns.
38	"	Sloan, W., . . .	Monkton.
39	"	Smith, J., . . .	Kilmarnock.
40	Lc.-Corp.,	Smith, W., . . .	Galston.
41	Private,	Stevenson, J. (1), . . .	Monkton.
42	"	Stevenson, J. (2), . . .	Do.
43	"	Strathern, W., . . .	Galston.
44	"	Walker, D., . . .	Ricarton.
45	"	Wilson, J., . . .	Galston.
46	"	Young, R., . . .	Monkton.
47	"	Young, S., . . .	Kilmarnock.

¹ From 14th Hussars, 1st October 1878.

NOMINAL ROLL OF "F," OR CAPTAIN W. P. ADAM'S TROOP.
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Adams, W.P.,	Tour, Kilmaurs.
2	Lieut.,	Kerr, R.,	Cunninghamhead, Kilmaurs.
3	Qr.-Mr.,	Brown, A.,	Stewarton.
4	T.-S.-M.,	¹ Murray, G.,	Kilmarnock.
5	Sergeant,	Muir, D.,	Dreghorn.
6	"	Smith, J.,	Loudoun.
7	"	Wylie, J.,	Stewarton.
8	Corporal,	Arthur, J.,	Fenwick.
9	"	Sheddon, J.,	Stewarton.
10	"	Torrance, H.,	Loudoun.
11	Private,	Alexander, W.,	Stewarton.
12	Lc.-Corp.,	Alexander, W.,	Fenwick.
13	Private,	Allan, J.,	Stewarton.
14	"	Allison, A.,	Loudoun.
15	"	Anderson, J.,	Stewarton.
16	"	Barr, J.,	Kilmarnock.
17	"	Black, J.,	Dreghorn.
18	"	Baxter, F.,	Kilmaurs.
19	Lc.-Corp.,	Clachan, J.,	Loudoun.
20	Private,	Clachan, T.,	Kilmaurs.
21	"	Cowan, B.,	Do.
22	"	Cunningham, J.,	Beith.
23	"	Dickie, D.,	Stewarton.
24	"	Eaglesham, W.,	Do.
25	"	Eaglesham, R.,	Do.
26	"	Gibbie, W.,	Loudoun.
27	"	Gilmour, W.,	Kilmaurs.
28	Lc.-Corp.,	Gillies, J.,	Kilmarnock.
29	Private,	Hay, J.,	Kilmaurs.
30	"	Kerr, R.,	Stewarton.
31	"	Laird, J.,	Kilmaurs.
32	"	Lindsay, W.,	Loudoun.
33	"	Mair, M.,	Dreghorn.
34	"	Melrose, J.,	Kilmarnock.
35	"	Millar, J.,	Galston.
36	"	Montgomerie, J.,	Stewarton.
37	"	Morton, Alex.,	Loudoun.
38	"	Murdoch, J.,	Kilmaurs.
39	Lc.-Corp.,	Nisbett, J.,	Loudoun.
40	Private,	Nisbett, W.,	Do.
41	"	Picken, J.,	Fenwick.
42	"	Templeton, W.,	Do.
43	"	Smith, A.,	Kilmaurs.
44	"	Torrance, M.,	Loudoun.

¹ From 15th Hussars, 1st April 1868.

Ayrshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

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NOMINAL ROLL OF "G," OF CAPTAIN R. M. POLLOK'S TROOP.
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Pollok, R. M.,	Middleton, Ayr.
2	Lieut.,	Finnie, A.,	Springhill, Kilmarnock.
3	Qr.-Mr.,	Crawford, J.,	Ardrossan.
4	T.-S.-M.,	¹ M'Gibney, F.,	Irvine.
5	Sergeant,	Reide, J.,	Kilwinning.
6	"	Speir, J.,	Ardrossan.
7	"	Anderson, D.,	Kilwinning.
8	Corporal,	Borland, R.,	Do.
9	"	Henderson, J.,	Ardrossan.
10	"	M'Laughlan, R.,	Do.
11	Lc.-Corp.,	Barbour, T.,	Dundonald.
12	Private,	Bicket, W.,	Kilwinning.
13	"	Brown, W.,	Ardrossan.
14	"	Bryson, J.,	Kilwinning.
15	"	Calderwood, J.,	Dundonald.
16	"	Caldwell, J.,	Do.
17	"	Campbell, J.,	Kilwinning.
18	"	Cochrane, J.,	Dundonald.
19	"	Custans, W.,	Ayr.
20	"	Dickie, D.,	Irvine.
21	Lc.-Corp.,	Dunlop, R.,	Do.
22	Private,	Dunlop, J.,	Do.
23	"	Dunlop, T.,	Kilwinning.
24	"	Hamilton, P.,	Irvine.
25	"	Hogerth, J.,	Ardrossan.
26	"	Howat, W.,	Dundonald.
27	"	Johnston, A.,	Irvine.
28	"	Logan, W.,	West Kilbride.
29	"	Marshall, J.,	Dundonald.
30	"	M'Conochie, J.,	Kilwinning.
31	"	M'Kinnon, A.,	Ardrossan.
32	"	Robertson, A.,	Irvine.
33	"	Smith, W.,	Dalry.
34	"	Wales, W.,	Irvine.
35	"	Wilson, J.,	Do.
36	"	Wilson, R.,	Kilwinning.
37	"	Wylie, J.,	Dundonald.
38	"	Wright, J.,	Troon.
39	"	Young, A.,	Kilwinning.

¹ From 6th Dragoons (Inniskillings), 1st May 1879.

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NOMINAL ROLL OF "H," OR CAPTAIN W. R. PATRICK'S TROOP.
1st July 1880.

No.	Rank and Name.		Parish.
1	Captain,	Patrick, W. R., . . .	Trearne, Beith.
2	Lieut.,	Russell, W. D., . . .	Maulside, Dalry.
3	Qr.-Mr.,	Meikle, J., . . .	Beith.
4	T.-S.-M.,	¹ Welch, J., . . .	Do.
5	Sergeant,	Stevenson, J., . . .	Dunlop.
6	"	Craig, J., . . .	Beith.
7	"	Gilmour, J., . . .	Do.
8	Corporal,	Kerr, W., . . .	Do.
9	"	Parker, H., . . .	Do.
10	"	Crawford, G., . . .	Dalry.
11	Private,	Authur, R., . . .	Do.
12	"	Allan, J., . . .	Do.
13	"	Biggart, J., . . .	Beith.
14	"	Duncan, R., . . .	Dunlop.
15	"	Dunlop, J., . . .	Dalry.
16	"	Dickie, J., . . .	Beith.
17	"	Ferguson, J., . . .	Dunlop.
18	"	Fulton, R., . . .	Beith.
19	"	Gilmour, A., . . .	Dunlop.
20	"	Gilmour, J., . . .	Do.
21	"	Hamilton, J., . . .	Beith.
22	"	Jack, W., . . .	Do.
23	"	Kerr, D., . . .	Kilbirnie.
24	"	Kerr, H., . . .	Do.
25	"	Kerr, J., . . .	Dunlop.
26	"	Kerr, J., . . .	Dalry.
27	"	Kerr, J., . . .	Beith.
28	"	King, A., . . .	Dunlop.
29	"	Lamont, J., . . .	Beith.
30	"	Meikle, H., . . .	Do.
31	"	Millar, R., . . .	Dunlop.
32	Lc.-Corp.,	Parker, H., . . .	Beith.
33	Private,	Parker, H., . . .	Do.
34	"	Sheddon, R., . . .	Kilbirnie.
35	Lc.-Corp.,	Smith, W., . . .	Dalry.
36	Private,	Smith, A., . . .	Do.
37	"	Smith, R., . . .	Dunlop.
38	"	Stevenson, R., . . .	Beith.
39	"	Stewart, T., . . .	Do.
40	"	Stewart, R., . . .	Dalry.
41	"	Thomson, W., . . .	Beith.
42	"	Walker, H., . . .	Do.
43	"	Wattison, A., . . .	Do.
44	"	Wilson, H., . . .	Dalry.
45	"	Wilson, J., . . .	Beith.

¹ From 2d Dragoons (Scots Greys), 1st May 1879.

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While these sheets were passing through the press, intimation has been received that the Ayrshire Yeomanry are to be exempted from the general order for the gradual discontinuance of gold lace; the regiment will therefore have the satisfaction of retaining the lace which they have worn for upwards of sixty years. Satisfaction will also be caused by the regulation, which is to take effect from 1st July 1881, whereby a step of honorary rank, tenable while serving or on retirement, will be granted to Field Officers and Captains of Yeomanry after service of twenty-five and twenty years respectively.