



ALBERT CARRINGTON EDITOR.

Thursday, Nov. 9, 1865.

GENERAL MUSTER OF THE MILITIA OF GREAT SALT LAKE COUNTY.

The military muster of the past week has been highly interesting, not only as a practical illustration of the rights and duties of citizenship in our common country, which requires every man to be prepared and ready to defend himself, his home and his country, but as an approximation to the effective strength of the county militia. It was expected, we believe, at one time that, at least, a portion of the militia of some other counties adjacent would take part in the muster, but circumstances controlling otherwise, it was confined exclusively to this county.

The ground selected for the purpose was admirably chosen, being a dry, level tract of land on the bank of the Jordan, well adapted for drill and evolutions, and having good grazing ground contiguous for animals. It is about four miles from the city, in a pasture, west and a little south of Mr. Mousley's, off the State road. The view from the ground was very beautiful. The city did not present that dark-green shade of full foliage, dotted with numberless villa-like residences, which it presents when seen in an earlier part of the season; yet the varied hues of the varying foliage were mellowed by the distance, and the dark shade of the orchards threw out in bold relief and with marked contrast the multitudinous white-looking buildings which dotted the base of the bench northward. Of the mountains and their October snows, and the scenery around, but little need be said to those who see them under every aspect; and to those not so favored, when the Pacific Railroad spans the western half of the continent and Great Salt Lake eclipses Saratoga, then they can come along with that host of visitors and settlers whose advent is prophesied of with such persistent continuity, and enjoy the scene for themselves.

At an early hour on the morning of the 1st inst., the various corps assembled at their respective places of muster, some of them having reached their places of rendezvous the previous evening, and from thence proceeded to the camp ground. The 2d regiment of infantry, under Col. S. W. Richards, arrived about 11 a. m., and was shortly after followed by six squadrons of cavalry, under Col. R. T. Burton. The 3d regiment of infantry under Col. D. J. Ross, forming with the cavalry the 1st brigade, Nauvoo Legion; the 1st regiment of infantry, Col. A. L. Fuller, in charge of Adjutant Isaac Groo; the artillery, under Major S. G. Ladd, forming with the 2d infantry the 2d brigade, Nauvoo Legion. Brigadier-General F. D. Richards commanding, and one company of Enfield rifles, or sharpshooters under Captain Jack, arrived soon after. The whole of the men were on the ground, and had occupied their respective positions shortly after 1 p. m. The extreme south of the line of encampment was assigned to the cavalry, to the north of them the artillery, beyond them the 3d regiment of infantry, and the 2d brigade. The heavy condition of some parts of the road to the ground rendered the dragging of weighty artillery very difficult, consequently, only four light field pieces were brought out to exercise with.

Fitting up tents, raising a tall liberty pole, from which a mammoth U. S. flag floated, opposite headquarters, and similar duties occupied the early part of the afternoon of Wednesday. During the time we saw General Wells moving among the men, with a word of counsel here, and a nod of recognition there, a smile, and a little fatherly advice to all who seemed to need it, more like a father moving among his children, than a commander who by law could exact the most rigid and punctilious obedience. An evening drill in which the various commands participated closed the day, and the bright moon rose in the evening on a city of tents, subject with their inhabitants to the strictness of military discipline, where in the morning the only sounds to be heard were the lowing of cattle, the neighing of the loose horses on the range, or the whirr of the wild duck rising from its bed of reeds by the river side. As we rode along the line of tents on the evening of the 1st we could not help moralizing. There were men who had left everything that is supposed to bind man to earth,—home, friends, country, to worship God as their consciences dictated; poor, friendless, persecuted, almost destitute the first of them, pioneers of the great west, had arrived here; and with industry, energy and trust in God, they have built up a country and a nation in a wilderness, of which here was one great practical evidence. We

thought of the words of one of the gold-seekers of '49, written in the then small settlement of Great Salt Lake City, to a New York paper, "The Mormons are not dead, nor is their spirit broken;" and we felt to say, verily it is so still.

THE SECOND DAY.

Early on the morning of Thursday, drill commenced and was continued by the various commands for several hours. One fact struck us with particular force, namely, the aptitude with which men perfectly harmless as far as drill was concerned, except to themselves, fell into their places in the evolutions. Theory seemed to be reduced to practice in a remarkably short time. There was a quiet earnestness about them, as if they had got together to do something or learn something and they meant to do it.

ARRIVAL FROM CAMP DOUGLAS.

About 11 a. m. Brig.-Gen. Connor and staff, accompanied by the military band, arrived from Camp Douglas. The visiting officers were received by Acting Major-General H. B. Clawson, in command of the Division on the ground, who extended to them every courtesy; at his headquarters, conducted them around the camp and invited them to remain for the review, but Gen. Connor not having been aware that the review was coming off so soon, had not made arrangements to remain and left the camp about noon.

VISITORS FROM THE CITY.

At a quarter past 12, Pres. Young, Governor Durkee, Pres. Kimball, Lieut.-Gen. D. H. Wells and staff, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Col. G. H. Irish, Hons. John Taylor, Geo. Q. Cannon, and W. H. Hooper, Gen. C. W. West, from Ogden, Col. Pace and staff, from Provo, with other gentlemen and a large number of ladies arrived, accompanied by an escort, under command of Cap. H. B. Kimball, which had been detailed from camp for the duty.

THE REVIEW.

Immediately after their arrival, the troops were passed in standing review; after which, the visitors having taken up a position for the purpose, the troops marched past them in column of companies, wheeling to the left and returning to their positions in a parallelogram.

THE APPEARANCE OF THE MEN.

was highly gratifying. There was a firmness, a manly bearing and general carriage, with a soldierly air and tread such as we did not expect to find, considering the circumstances. Some of the companies were neatly uniformed; part of the cavalry, the 1st battalion 3d regiment of infantry, and the artillery being conspicuous in this respect. After review, the Division formed in hollow square—a movement that was very neatly executed—with the reviewing officers and distinguished visitors in the centre.

THE SPEECHES.

After an appropriate prayer by Elder Geo. Q. Cannon, preceded by military music, Governor Durkee was introduced to the Division by Gen. Wells. The Governor expressed his gratification at meeting with and seeing the militia of this part of the Territory. He said it was necessary for the various parts of the government to harmonize together. A good government protects us in our rights; it protects our wives, our daughters and our little ones; it protects our industry, and guards us from danger; it is a blessing of inestimable value. A government may backslide; there may be a necessity for revolution; this occurred in the formation of our government and the republic of which we form a part. England brought the science of her government, a limited monarchy, to this continent, but it was too limited for us. The genius of our government is for the people to govern themselves, and to prepare them for properly doing so there must be free discussion and free argument. By that means their minds become enlightened, and then they are in a position to make laws and correctly obey them. He was happy to learn that many here felt to appreciate this idea, people who see that the use of law is to maintain order. We cannot advance higher than the status of the masses. That their status may be elevated we should all become missionaries. How many are scattered over the country with bright ideas! To call these into exercise, schools, debating societies, etc., are requisite. I have come here, said the Governor, as the agent of the Government. They have given me no instructions, as to the course I should pursue, but I shall endeavor to do the best I can for the public good. If I find I am not useful I am willing to retire. To be efficient we must co-operate, we must act together. He then referred to the recent rebellion, showing that the results reached could never have been attained if the masses had not acted in concert with the general Government. That war was a vindication of the principle that the majority of the people shall have the right to elect their own officers. We have disabused the world of the idea that Americans cannot fight. How the Americans have fought for this principle the world has seen. He then inculcated the principle of every man being a gospel preacher, and illustrating in his every day life its precepts and principles. We should be subordinate to the government unless it prostitutes itself; then, he would be a rebel. The government might enact some laws he would not like, yet he would bear a great deal; but if it were to ask him to do a crime, then he would be a rebel. Let us adopt the genius of our country, free debate and free discussion. He spoke of the future before our nation, urging all to do their duty to their country and their God; and sat down amid loud cheers from the Division.

Hon. John Taylor endorsed the sentiments of the Governor. The idea entertained by a few in our Government, that it is not right to bear arms, we give a practical refutation to to-day. There is a belligerent feeling in man a spirit of encroachment, a general desire to oppress his fellow man, that the venerable founders of this country were painfully aware of, and they pledged their lives, fortunes and honor for equal rights and liberty. They obtained what they struggled for, and we, to-day, enjoy those blessings which they obtained. As the Governor remarked to him, recently, "God is love;" but we read also that He is "a man of war;" and on certain occasions He has proven to be so. It is a correct principle that men should respect themselves; and to do so they should be prepared for every emergency, for their are men who will only respect us when we have a sword, a gun and a bayonet. The speaker also referred to the late rebellion, and said, that while we may congratulate ourselves and the nation on the cessation of hostilities, yet there has been developed through that war lamentable though it was, that which has struck to the hearts of all the nations of Europe. They have witnessed the acts of this nation, and have been struck dumb with astonishment. Perhaps not less than a million men were arrayed in arms against each other at one time. True, they were hostile to each other, but what nation could combat with such a power when united? The spirit of patriotism, which has been developed under those inauspicious circumstances, warrant us in saying that this nation can cope with any power under heaven. And whilst other States and Territories are arming and have armed themselves according to law, it is necessary that we should not be behind any of them. We should be prepared at all times to perform well our parts as citizens of the United States, and also to defend ourselves against Indian aggressions, or any other encroachment. He expressed his pleasure to see the organization as perfect as it was, and wished the militia of Utah to be behind none in efficiency and perfect acquaintance with their duties; yet we wish to treat all men with fraternal feelings, kindness and courtesy; and whilst true to ourselves, to our religion and our God, let the flag of the United States float for ever. The hon. gentleman was loudly cheered on concluding.

Lieutenant-General D. H. Wells thanked the Division on behalf of himself, the distinguished visitors present, and our country. All good citizens should bear arms; it is a duty, and a privilege guaranteed to us in the Constitution of our country. This privilege they do not have in Europe which the General has recently returned from. It is incumbent upon every loyal, good citizen to bear arms and keep them in good order, ready for use. It is one of the bulwarks of the freedom of American citizens, more so of those who are located in this far-off, wild country in the midst of savages. Those present would feel glad they had been present, and those absent would feel sorry for that absence. The masses in Europe would be glad to have this privilege, but the crowned heads are afraid of them. Our fathers had no such fear, and therefore made the bearing of arms a duty incumbent on every citizen, to guard against tyranny, not only from a foreign foe but from domestic invasion of their rights. Any President, Governor or popular General who would deprive the citizens of our country of this right, or endeavor to do so, would break the laws of his country. Then bear arms, take good care of them, get ammunition suitable to those arms, and keep them where you can find them at a moment's notice, for in this Indian country you do not know the day you may be called upon to defend yourselves. He was thankful we have a country to defend, and again thanked the Division for their ready response to this the first call made by him since his return.

General Wells then said that as the resignation of Major-General Grant had created a vacancy of that office, an officer had to be elected to fill the position. He nominated Col. R. T. Burton for the rank, and on the motion being put by General Clawson, it elicited a perfect shout of "ayes." The election vote was unanimous.

General Burton was called on by the Division for a speech. His response was brief, pointed and sensible. He thanked them for the confidence and trust reposed in him, and would try to do his duty as he had always done it. He was loudly cheered by the troops.

Col. O. H. Irish was called on for a speech, but only proposed the sentiment "One flag, one God and one country."

AFTER THE REVIEW.

The various commands were marched back to their respective quarters, and dismissed parade. Prests. Young and Kimball, Gov. Durkee, Gen. Wells and staff, Hons. John Taylor, George Q. Cannon and W. H. Hooper, Col. Irish, Col. Smith, from Camp Douglas, Mr. Head, Mr. Jones and other gentlemen, with the ladies accompanying, were entertained by Acting Major-General Clawson commanding, at headquarters. Generals Burton and F. D. Richards, Major Sharp and other officers also entertained a large number of ladies and gentlemen. The visitors left camp early in the evening and returned to the city, accompanied by an escort of cavalry. Evening drill and the usual camp duties followed their departure.

THIRD DAY.

At 8½ a. m., on Friday, the Division was called out for drill, which continued till about 10½ when it marched off the ground, in column by

companies, nearly a mile north of camp, where it formed line for a

SHAM BATTLE.

The 3d regiment of infantry, Col. D. J. Ross, occupied the right of the line; and Gen. Richards' brigade the left and centre, with the artillery in reserve, supported on the left by Major Winder's cavalry, and on the right by Major Lot Smith's cavalry command. A part of the cavalry was moved forward and deployed as skirmishers, and the infantry was thrown into close column in mass, on the right of each regiment, by battalions. The artillery was then brought forward supported by Major Rawlings' cavalry. After several movements, the cavalry under Majors Smith and Winder were thrown forward as an attacking force. The artillery commenced firing and was charged by the cavalry, when it retreated and the infantry formed squares to resist the cavalry attack. Several charges were made by the cavalry on each square, which were handsomely repulsed by the infantry, the cavalry supporting them coming up to their assistance, and engaging in a hand to hand fight with the attacking force. The line was formed again as at first, then retired by echelon of battalions from the centre. The command was wheeled and thrown into an oblique line on the right and left to face the enemy. It then retired and formed line on centre battalion; then wheeled into column by companies and marched back to camp; where parade was dismissed about 12½ m.

INSPECTION OF ARMS.

At 1 p. m. the Division formed for inspection of arms. While the inspection was progressing we moved along the line front and rear, and felt that if there was not that uniformity of dress displayed which regular troops show, the men were there, the bone, brawn and sinew, with an ample supply of good arms. We heard an officer of the inspection remark afterwards, who has been in commission for over 40 years in several States and Territories, that during that period he never saw a better or more efficient set of arms than were presented there for inspection. Considering the difficulties that have had to be met in procuring them, it is certainly matter for congratulation, and speaks well for the officers and their men.

ANOTHER SHAM BATTLE.

Prests. Young and Kimball, Gen. Wells and other gentlemen having arrived from the city, the troops marched back to the ground occupied in the morning, and engaged in another sham battle. The positions of the troops and the movements were much the same as in the previous display, with the difference of the cavalry firing blank cartridge from their revolvers at short distance, and the squares of infantry replying with musketry blank cartridge. There was also more vim and spirit manifested, and the movements were executed with greater dash and much neatness. General Burton took charge of the division during the fights, by request of the General commanding, who, with his staff, Lieut. Gen. Wells and staff, Presidents Young and Kimball, and other distinguished persons witnessed the display.

FOURTH DAY.

On Saturday morning, at dress parade, special orders from the General commanding were read, from which we extract:—

"He expresses his thanks to the officers and men for the prompt and soldierlike manner in which they have discharged their duties; and he embraces the opportunity of congratulating the troops in having elected so able a commander as Major-General R. T. Burton, to whom he presents his grateful acknowledgments, as also to Gen. A. P. Rockwood and Cols. J. C. Little and J. W. Cummings, of the Lieut.-General's Staff, for the efficient aid they have rendered him during the muster."

(Signed)

H. B. CLAWSON,

Acting Major-Gen. Commanding.

THE RETURN.

At 9¼ a. m. the bugle sounded the order to break camp, and in fifteen minutes the troops were on the move for Great Salt Lake City, which they reached shortly before noon. Marching up East Temple street to First South street, they wheeled to the left and moved to Second West street, marched up it past the Governor's residence, saluting him and several gentlemen with him as they passed; then wheeling into South Temple street they marched east and formed line opposite the President's residence, the extreme right about a quarter of a mile east of his office, and the extreme left nearly half a mile from the same point. The entire division saluted, and were dismissed about 1 p. m.

Among many interesting items, most of which we are compelled to omit, we noticed with the troops the old Nauvoo Brass Band, under Cap. J. Smithies, and were pleased to see it again on duty. The weather was superb during the whole time; bright sunshiny days, and clear moonlight nights, adding to the enjoyment experienced throughout. Harmony, good-feelings and uniform good order, unmarred by any accident, prevailed through the camp to an extent, we presume, it would be impossible to find among so large a number of men in any other part of the world.

THE IMMIGRATION.—Pres. B. Young received information on the 4th inst., that the last, or Willis' train, was at the Three Crossings on the Sweetwater, doing pretty well.