

THREE COMMANDERS.

MEN WHO WOULD LEAD EUROPEAN ARMIES IN CASE OF WAR.

An Englishman Who Thinks It Would Be Profitable to Make a Technical Comparison Between Viscount Wolsley and a Russian and French General.

I do not know the new commander in chief of the English land forces. I saw him once or twice in my life, but this is many years ago, and in military matters of the magnitude involved in the supreme command of a great army I am afraid I should prove an incompetent critic. But I believe to a great extent in physiognomy, and if Viscount Wolsley be not a very clever man he ought to bring an action for libel against his face, for he looks decidedly clever. If there were any doubt in my mind about his ability, it would be set at rest by the not very enthusiastic remarks in connection with his appointment I read in one or two French newspapers. "You are an irritable people, envious, jealous and proud to a degree," said Bismarck to General de Wimpffen on Sept. 1, 1870. "You are an irritable people, envious, jealous and proud to a degree," he repeated. "You were under the impression that victory is an appendage which was exclusively reserved to you."

Has the quarter of a century gone by since those words were uttered made a difference in that respect in the French people? I should not like to say. It may not be altogether uninteresting to look at the two men against whom the English commander in chief will be pitted if a quarrel should ever unhappily break forth in Europe. I am alluding to the commanders in chief of the Russian and the French forces.

The Russian army contains several men of unquestionable capacity; nevertheless, there appears to be a consensus of opinion that, in the event of war, with no matter whom, the supreme command would virtually devolve upon General Obrotcheff, to the exclusion even of General Kouropatkine. I say "virtual" command, for, nominally, young Nicholas would be at the head of his legions.

Having declared myself at the outset incapable of judging the English commander in chief from a military point of view, I am not going to stultify myself by endeavoring to do this in the case of Obrotcheff. I only repeat what I have heard. Until very recently the chief of Vannowski's staff and Aid-de-camp General Obrotcheff was, in spite of his recognized talents, looked askance at in Russian military circles. The epithet "red" was invariably tacked to his name as late as 15 years ago, and the third section of the imperial chancellerie, without troubling to inquire into the matter, placed him on the list of "dangerous" men "to be watched very closely." A note like that from the Russian police becomes practically inflexible, and, aid-de-camp general though he was, not the slightest attempt was made to efface his name from the list. After his exploits on the Danube Louis Melikoff drew the attention of Alexander II to this apparently flagrant injustice, to this permanent insult. The name was maintained on the list for all that, but the epithet was changed from "red" into "well meaning."

Obrotcheff has married a Frenchwoman, and is a declared partisan—or supposed to be—of an alliance with France. His views in that respect date from 1870, when he was an obscure general. I repeat, about his abilities there is little or no doubt. After the first checks in the Turko-Russian campaign he was sent in hot haste to the Danube, and he is credited with having saved the Russian army from total destruction. Before that, though, he had already become the intimate friend of the heir to the throne, and the friendship underwent no diminution during Alexander III's reign.

Wherever the scene of the next European campaign of the French may be laid, General Felix Gustave Sausier, the present military governor of Paris, is beforehand designated as the leader. Sausier is close upon 70. In spite of his large size he is very active, but for that size he would give one the idea of a monsigneur of the Louis XIV period dressed in modern uniform. There is no doubt about his value as a soldier, which does not always mean an equal value as a supreme commander, but it is fair to state that in the battles around Metz, a quarter of a century ago, he distinguished himself most signally. The famous infantry charge at St. Privat, which practically barred the progress of the Germans on that side, was led by him.

Sausier was one of the officers who signed the protest against the surrender of Metz. Having refused to pledge himself not to serve again during the campaign, he was sent as prisoner of war to Cologne. Nor would he give his promise not to escape, consequently he was transported to a small town on the Vistula (Grandens, I believe), and absolutely sequestered—without effect, for he made his escape after all.

He allowed Gambetta to remain ignorant of all this, as well as of his republican origin, and the "great tribune," whose inflexible instinct has been vaunted so much, only looked upon Sausier as a colonel of the empire and treated him as such. After that Sausier went once more to Algeria. Sausier, I should say, has had more fighting than any general in the French army, but it would be rash to say that this made him a strategist. A brilliant soldier he was and is still, in spite of his age, and as he was barely 40 when France suffered her reverses he may have profited by them. To many in France himself he is an unknown quantity. These are the two men a comparison with whom and Viscount Wolsley it would be profitable to establish, but I mean a technical comparison.—London Illustrated News.

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Future of the Microscope.
As the physician's assistant and guide in diagnosis, the microscope is coming rapidly to the front. It is now the custom with some advanced physicians whenever there is a case with obscure symptoms, or where consultations are thought necessary, to draw a few drops of the patient's blood and examine it under the microscope. This almost invariably decides the condition and is, in many diseases, an infallible guide, as the blood is the great sewerage system of humanity. It takes up and carries to the lungs whatever impurities may exist. There they are consumed or exhaled. It therefore stands to reason that the blood is the index to the state of the system.

Another test adopted by all up to date doctors is the examination of the perspiration after a great degree of heat has been applied to the body. The sufferer is put into a steam box, and after some moments of profuse perspiration the surface of the body is scraped with a sharp steel instrument, by means of which whatever impurities are thrown out may be taken from the pores. This, with the blood examination, is thought by some practitioners to afford all of the assistance necessary in determining the nature of the most obscure diseases. Of course, there are what may be called new diseases, and this method will enable the skilled microscopist to detect them and study their genesis and treatment.—New York Ledger.

Fare to a Star.
Besides being a great astronomer, Sir Robert Ball is a man of figures. He tells us what it would cost to reach one of the most distant stars, supposing a railway were constructed to it from London and that the low rate of 1 penny per 100 miles prevailed. If the intending passenger could present to the booking clerk the whole of the national debt of the United Kingdom—a sum exceeding £870,000,000—he would require 5,000 huge carts to convey it in sovereigns to the ticket office. Even when the poor clerk had accomplished the lengthy task of counting the "fare," he would want another £109,000,000 before he would feel justified in issuing even a third class ticket, and there could not be a return one for the money.—Scottish Nights.

Pious Indians.
The history of Canada, especially its earlier history, preserves the story of many a deed of heroism and devotion on the part of Christian missionaries who worked and perished among the Indians, but there are few stories which reflect so much credit on Indian piety as that published from Quebec. Montagnais and Eskimos came from the southern shore of Hudson strait to worship in the province of Quebec. This involved a tramp on foot of 1,000 miles through an inhospitable country, through forests, across rivers, mountains and lakes, to render a duty they owed to their religion.—Boston Transcript.

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COLOR SCHEME FOR SMALL HOUSE.

Let Old Blue Predominate in Parlor, Library and Dining Room.

How few people when furnishing a small house or flat remember that old blue is one of the happiest colors to choose for a foundation, writes Frances Ann Roadley in The Ladies' Home Journal. In a house where, as a rule, all the rooms open into one another, especial care must be taken to preserve harmony. It is better then to select one color which shall run through all the rooms. Old blue is the color par excellence in such a case, combined with tan, gray or white for the rugs, while the same scheme prevails in the heavy draperies.

A lovely little house in mind has a parlor and library in one. The large rug, covering the greater part of the room, is old blue and gray. In front of the fireplace is a long, light gray fur one. A broad, low lounge is covered with dark gray. It is always better to cover a lounge in a solid color, as it takes more kindly to the pillows of endless hues. The large dining room rug is old blue and tan, with smaller rugs of tawny brown. The bedroom has an old blue and white large rug and white for smaller ones. Let old blue predominate everywhere in the floor furnishings and draperies, but not to the exclusion of all other colors elsewhere, for where one color only is used the effect as a whole is flat. Let there be odd bright color touches in the way of pillows, lamp shades, odd bits of china and bric-a-brac, but with always an eye to what is the proper color for each room. When all furnished be careful to see whether all of the rooms blend into a beautiful harmony.

In a bedroom white enameled or birdseye maple is exquisite where two or three pieces of fresh old mahogany are added. Each heightens the other's beauty in a most charming manner. A room furnished entirely in mahogany gives a heavy, dismal effect, but in a parlor or library combined, say in a flat or small house, place a large, quaintly carved old desk and one of those highly polished, round card tables, and see what an air they give to the modern and equally beautiful furniture. In the dining room a square mahogany table with a surface like glass, and even a small buffet or china cabinet, will be quite enough of the antique to set off everything else in the room. Have exquisitely drawn linen doilies, candles in rose colored shades and a profusion of, say, pink carnations and you have a lovely lunch table. In a house the hall should be a leading feature—enticing, not cold, bare and cheerless, repelling one from further acquaintance with the house and its mistress. A hall is like an introduction.

HERE'S A NUT TO CRACK.

A Puzzle That May Give a Leisure Mind Something to Think Of.

I have found the following interesting problem in an old notebook, writes Sir Walter Besant. I have no recollection at all of its origin. Perhaps everybody knows it. Perhaps everybody does not. Those who do not will find it, I think, unless they bring algebra to bear upon it, rather a tough nut to crack.

Here it is. Once there were three niggers—their wickedness is a negligible quantity; it does not enter into the problem—who robbed an orchard, carried away the apples in a sack, laid them up in a barn for the night and went to bed. One of them woke up before dawn, and, being distrustful of his friends, thought he would make sure of his share at once. He therefore went to the barn, divided the apples into three equal heaps—there was one over, which he threw away—and carried off his share. Another nigger then woke up with the same uneasiness and the same resolution. He, too, divided the apples into three heaps—there was one over, which he threw away—took his share, and carried it off. And then the third nigger woke up with the same emotions. He, too, divided the remaining apples into three portions—there was one over, which he threw away—took his share and departed.

In the morning every one preserved silence over his doings of the night; they divided the apples which were left into three heaps—one was over, which they threw away—and so took each his share. How many apples were there in the sack? There are many possible answers—a whole series of numbers—but let us have the lowest number of apples possible. Senior wranglers must be good enough not to answer this question. Moralists, if they please, may narrate the subsequent history of these three niggers, apart from the problem of their apples.

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