

tering line, and ascended the heights amid a deafening shout, that rose even above the "red artillery." In an instant the squares seemed enveloped; no vestige of them could be seen; the cloud of horsemen swept like a hurricane along, and the clattering volleys of musketry which wrung out through the din and tumult, sounded but faintly, in comparison with the overwhelming crash of the onset.

The devoted ranks of the infantry appeared lost in the mighty whirlwind. Not so, however, the valour of British soldiers was then conspicuous. Firm against the shock, they stood like the sea-beaten rock, immovable amid the waters; and while the proud chivalry of France tore in mad enthusiasm between the squares, the roll of unbroken musketry displayed the steadiness of these gallant fellows. Exhausted by fruitless efforts, infuriated by unsuccesses, the cavalry rode wildly hither and thither, until, commingled and broken, their loss became tremendous, and a retreat was sounded. Then, at that auspicious moment, the Allied dragoons dashed forward, and in compact array pursued them over the crest of the hill, and sabering them as they fled.

"Ney, thus foiled, decided on a combined attack of cavalry and infantry together; but for this the duke was long prepared, and sent orders for Chasse to move up to his support, by which means his front line could be reinforced by troops from his second. During this time La Haye Sainte, was again stormed, and at length set on fire by the French; but Major Baring, its gallant defender, succeeded in suppressing the flames, and held his ground in defiance of every thing.

"About the same time, a strong column of French infantry, supported by cavalry, was advancing against the centre of the Anglo-allied right wing. Whilst the opposed batteries were concentrating upon it a vigorous fire. Lord Uxbridge brought forward Somerset's heavy cavalry brigade from its position on the Charleroi road, for the purpose of attacking this column, and also ordered up in support Trip's Dutch-Belgian Carabinier-Brigade. The attack was made with great gallantry by the household cavalry, which succeeded in checking the advance of the enemy; but having been so much reduced in numbers, it was unable to penetrate the column, which received it with a heavy fire. As Somerset retired, the French cavalry, by which the column had been supported, prepared to advance. Trip's Dutch-Belgian cavalry was now at hand, Uxbridge, pleased with their fine appearance, and desirous of exciting in them a courageous enthusiasm, placed himself conspicuously in their front, and ordering the 'charge,' led them towards the enemy. He had proceeded a very short distance when his aide-de-camp, Captain Horace Seymour, galloped up to him, and made him aware that not a single man of them was following him. Turning round his horse, he instantly rode up to Trip, and addressed himself to this officer with great warmth. Then, appealing to the brigade, in terms the most exhorting and encouraging, and inciting them by gestures the most animated and significant, he repeated the order to charge, and again led the way in person. But this attempt was equally abortive; Uxbridge, exasperated and indignant, rode away from the brigade, leaving it to adopt any course which its commander might think proper; and as the French cavalry, to which this hesitation was but too manifest, was now rapidly advancing to the attack, the Dutch Belgians went about, and retired in such haste and disorder that the two right squadrons of the 3rd hussars of the King's German Legion experienced the greatest difficulty in maintaining their ground, and avoiding being carried along to the rear by these horsemen in the wildness of their flight.

A grand attack of the whole line was now resolved on—the centre of which was to be carried above La Haye Sainte, by one stupendous effort. For this mighty encounter, ten battalions of the Imperial Guard were drawn up in two columns of attack—two battalions of grenadiers to act as reserve—these, supported by all the cavalry that remained of that splendid force which so often assailed the allied squares. A French officer of Cuirassiers, who deserted at the time, came into the British lines with the intelligence, that the attack would take place in half an hour.

While yet this movement was in preparation, Vivian learning from his patrols that the Prussians were coming rapidly up from Ohain, and knowing that cavalry were much wanted in the centre, proposed to Vandeleur, who was on the right, and his superior officer, that the brigades should move up there at once. Vandeleur declined to act without orders—whereupon, Vivian put his own brigade in motion, and soon had the satisfaction of finding from Lord Uxbridge, that he had only anticipated the Duke's wishes, while an order was sent on to Vandeleur to follow.

It was now that the grand attack was to begin, and the orders were given to set the columns in motion. Standing on a small eminence to the left of the Charleroi road, Napoleon watched the splendid mass, and pointing significantly with his hands to the allied position, a shout of *vive l'Empereur* burst forth with an enthusiasm that seemed like madness. With a cloud of skirmishers in front, filling the entire valley, the columns advanced. The column, which was that exactly opposed to the British Guards, suffered severely as they came on, from the batteries of the Anglo-allied artillery, but—

"Notwithstanding the terrible havoc made in the ranks of the leading column of the Imperial Guard, it continued its advance in admirable order, and with the greatest enthusi-

asm. Several of its superior officers placed themselves at its head. Ney's horse having been shot under him, he drew his sword, and chivalrous led the way on foot, sustaining to the last his appropriate and well-earned *nom de guerre*—"le plus brave des braves." As the column neared the rise of ground which constituted the highest point of the ridge occupied by the right wing of the Duke's line, it gradually passed the line of fire hitherto directed upon it by the greater portion of the batteries on the British right of that point. Wellington rode up to the British foot battery posted in the immediate right of Maitland's brigade of Guards, with its own right thrown somewhat forward, and addressing himself to an artillery officer (Lieutenant Sharpin) hastily asked who commanded it. The latter replied that Captain Bolton having just been killed, it was now under the command of Captain Napier. The Duke then said, "Tell him to keep a look out to his left, for the French will soon be with him." The message had scarcely been communicated, when the bearskin caps of the leading divisions of the column of the Imperial Guard appeared just above the summit of the hill. The cannonade hitherto directed upon this point from the distant French batteries, now ceased, but a swarm of skirmishers opened a sharp and teasing fire among the British gunners.

"In the next moment, however, they were scattered and driven back upon the main body by a sudden shower of cannon, grape, and schrapnel shells, poured forth from Napier's guns, which now kept up a terrific fire upon the column, within a distance of forty or fifty yards. Nevertheless, the French guards continued to advance. They had now topped the summit. To the astonishment of the officers who were at their head, there appeared in their immediate front no direct impediment to their further advance. They could only distinguish dimly through the smoke extending from Napier's battery, the cocked hats of a few mounted officers, little imagining, probably, that the most prominent of these was the great Duke himself. Pressing boldly forward, they had arrived within fifty paces of the spot on which the British Guards were lying down, when Wellington gave the talismanic call—"Up, Guards; make ready!" and ordered Maitland to attack. It was a moment of thrilling excitement. The British Guards springing up so suddenly in a most compact four deep line, appeared to the French as if starting out of the ground. The latter, with their high bonnet, as they crossed the summit of the ridge, appeared to the British, through the smoky haze, like a corps of giants bearing down upon them. The British Guards instantly opened the fire with a tremendous volley, thrown in with so much coolness, deliberation, and precision, that the head of the column became, as it were, convulsed by the shock, and nearly the entire mass staggered under the effect. In less than a single minute, more than three hundred of these brave old warriors fell, to rise no more. But the high spirit and innate valour which actuated the mass were not to be subdued by a first repulse. Its officers placing themselves conspicuously on its front, and on its flanks, called aloud, waved their swords, and, by encouraging words and gestures, commenced a deployment, in order to acquire a more extended front. But the head of the column being continually shattered and driven back upon the mass, by the well sustained and rapidly destructive fire by which it was assailed within so extremely a limited space, this attempt altogether failed. The front of the column was becoming momentarily more disordered and broken up, men were disappearing by the flanks, whilst others in the rear began firing over the heads of those before them. The confusion into which the French Guards had now been thrown became manifest. The Duke ordered Maitland to charge; whilst, at the same instant, the gallant Lord Saltoun, equally alive to the real situation of the column, called out, "Now's the time, my boys!" The brigade sprang forward, with a loud cheer, to the charge. Numbers of the French Guards nearest to the British, threw down their arms and knapsacks, and disappeared. The flanks began rapidly to spread out; and then the mass partaking more generally of the panic, appeared as if rent asunder by some invisible power. At the same time, Halkett, notwithstanding the fierce conflict in which Alten's division was then engaged, most judiciously pushed forward his two right regiments, the 33rd and 69th, a short distance, to cover, if possible, Maitland's brigade from any flank attack that might be attempted by a part of Donzelot's troops, and such advanced position offered considerable security to the brigade of Guards as it subsequently retired to re-form.

"The British Guards had continued their charge some distance down the slope of the hill, when Maitland perceived the second attacking column of the imperial guard advancing on his right, and exposing his brigade to the imminent risk of being turned on that flank. He accordingly gave the order to face about and retire; but, amidst their victorious shouts and the noise of the firing of cannon and other arms, the command was imperfectly understood, and the first sense of danger led to a cry of "Form square" being passed along their line, it being naturally assumed that the enemy's cavalry would take advantage of their isolated position; which, however, was not the case. The flanks of battalions gave way as if to form square. Saltoun conspicuously exerted himself in endeavouring to rectify the mistake but in vain; and the whole went to the rear. The confusion in which they retired was unavoidable; but it was not the confusion consequent upon either defeat or panic; it resulted simply from a misunderstanding of the command; and no greater or more distinguished proof could be afforded of the excellent order,

cool self-possession, and admirable discipline of these troops, than the steadiness, alacrity, and intelligence with which, upon regaining the crest of the ridge, they obeyed the word then given of "Halt, front, form up," mechanically resuming their four-deep line, which, having its left thrown somewhat forward, now became parallel with the front of the advancing second attacking column of the imperial guard.

"The second, like the first column of attack, advanced with great boldness, and in excellent order, and appeared animated by the best possible spirit. Its left front was covered by a cloud of skirmishers, in order to conceal its movement as much as possible from the view of the British line. The battalions of Adam's brigade threw out each a company for the purpose of checking them. During the advance of the column, and more especially as it descended the gentle declivity eastward of the great orchard of Hougoumont, it suffered severely from the British cannonade. So destructive indeed had been the fire from some of the British batteries on the right of Maitland's brigade, from the commencement of the advance of the imperial guard, that the French were induced suddenly to push forward a body of cuirassiers to endeavor to silence these guns. In this they partially succeeded; the cuirassiers having gallantly charged one of the batteries, and forced the gunners to seek shelter in the rear of the infantry—driving in at the same time, the skirmishers of the 2d battalion of the 95th regiment, and of the 52d regiment. They were checked, however, by the then sudden and unexpected appearance of Adam's brigade, which had just been moved in its four deep line, close up to the narrow road that runs along the summit of the ridge. The 52d regiment, which was more directly opposed to them, came down to the "Prepare for cavalry." As a renewal of the attack seemed probable, a squadron of the 23d British Light Dragoons, under Captain Cox, was detached across the ridge, down the outer slope, towards the great orchard; from the rear of which it charged the cuirassiers, as they advanced again towards the guns, overcame them, and pursued them across the plain, far in rear of the second attacking column of the imperial guard, until it fell into a fire thrown out upon it from the head of a French column of infantry, by which its files were scattered, and the whole compelled to make a hasty retreat toward the Allied position.

"Had the second column of attack continued in the original direction of its advance, it would have come upon the centre of Adam's brigade, but having, as it began to ascend the exterior slope of the main ridge of the Allied position, slightly diverged to its right, as before observed, by following the direction of a very gentle hollow, constituting the re-entering angle formed by the tongue of ground that projected from the front of Maitland's brigade, and that part of the ridge occupied by Adam's brigade, it, in some degree, lent its left flank to the latter. This circumstance not only observed, but had been in a great measure anticipated by Lieut. Colonel Sir John Colborne, commanding the 52d regiment, an officer of great repute in the British army. He had been watching with intense anxiety the progress of the enemy's column, and, seizing the most favourable moment, he, without orders and upon his own responsibility, wheeled the left company of the 52d to the left, and then formed the remainder of the regiment upon that company, for the purpose of bringing its front nearly parallel with the flank of the French column. At this moment Adam rose up, and asked Colborne what he was going to do, to which the latter replied, "to make that column feel our fire." Adam, approving of this, ordered Colborne to move on, and galloped off to bring up his right regiment, the 71st. The Duke, who had just seen Maitland's brigade re-formed and posted in the best order, parallel with the front of the attacking column, was at this moment stationed on the right of Napier's battery. He despatched an aide-de-camp (Major the Hon. Henry Percy) to direct Sir Henry Clinton to advance and attack the imperial guard; but a single glance at Colborne's forward movement satisfied him that his intention had been anticipated; and he immediately pushed forward the 2d battalion 95th regiment to the left of the 52d. The French by this time had nearly reached the brow of the ridge, its front covering almost the whole of Napier's battery and a portion of the extreme right of Maitland's brigade. It was still gallantly pressing forward, in defiance of the most galling fire poured into its front by the battery and by the British Guards, when the sudden and imposing appearance of the four deep line of the 52d regiment bearing directly towards its left flank, in the most admirable and compact order imaginable, caused it to halt. In the next instant, wheeling up its left sections, it opened a rapid and destructive fire from the entire length of its left flank against the 52d regiment. Colborne, having brought his line parallel to the flank of the imperial guard, also posted, and poured a deadly fire into the mass; and almost at the same moment the rifles of the 2d battalion 95th regiment, then coming up on the left, were levelled and discharged with unerring aim into the most advanced portion of the column.

"The 71st regiment was at this time, rapidly advancing on the right, to complete the brigade movement. Colborne eager to complete his projected flank attack upon the enemy's column, caused his men to cease firing, and gave the command—"charge! charge!" It was answered by three hearty British cheers that rose distinctly above the shout of "Vive l'Empereur!" and the now straggling and unsteady fire from the column. The 2d battalion 95th regiment hastened to join in the charge on the left. The movement was remarkable for the

order, the steadiness, the resoluteness, and the daring, by which it was characterized. The column of the imperial guard, which already seemed to reel to and fro under the effect of the front and flank fire which had been so successfully brought to bear upon it, was evidently in consternation as it beheld the close advance of Adam's brigade. Some daring spirits—and it contained many within its ranks—still endeavoured to make at least a show of resistance; but the disorder, which had been rapidly increasing, now became uncontrollable; and this second column of the imperial guard, breaking into the wildest confusion, shared the fate of the first; with this difference, however, that in consequence of the combined front and flank fire in which it had been so fatally involved, and of the unrestrained pursuit which deprived it of the power of rallying its component parts, it became so thoroughly disjointed and dispersed, that with the exception of the two rear battalions, which constituted the 1st regiment of chasseurs (old guard) it is extremely doubtful whether any portion of it ever reunited as a regularly formed military body, during the brief remaining period of the battle—certainly not on the Allied side of La Belle Alliance, towards which point it directed its retreat."

From an article in the same Magazine, entitled "Continental Countries," we take the following extract, descriptive of

#### THE PRUSSIAN NATIONAL CHARACTER.

The Prussian character, or, to speak more accurately, that phase of it which presents itself to a stranger, is we must admit, far less pleasing than that of the inhabitants of several of the other states of Germany. In the Prussian in the middle and lower classes of life—and it is there alone that national character in its purity is in any country to be looked for—there is less of refinement, either of manner or language, than is met with very commonly in his Saxon neighbour; and there is certainly less of "bonhomme," or that uncalculating warmheartedness which wins so rapidly on the feelings, than in your easy going Austrian and other southerners of the Confederation. There is, moreover, on the other hand, as it strikes us, a considerable degree of—if not absolutely assumption—at least self-satisfaction in the Prussian's bearing, as well as something of hardness of outline—an unpleasant mixture of shrewdness and pretension which is any thing but conciliatory or prepossessing at first sight. There is, in fact, a somewhat too marked expression of nationality, or, to speak more plainly, of national pride—connected apparently with the consciousness of an advanced state of political enlightenment, as well as of the possession of superior civil privileges—which is the very reverse of attractive. The Prussian in short with his harder and more angular physiognomy, and such a bountiful development of the knowing organs, as well as as those of self-esteem, combativeness, and acquitiveness, as must doubtless exist if there be any truth in phrenology, bears pretty much the same relation to the less arctic German, as in Britain does the shrewd and energetic north-countryman to the less acute, less pushing but more genial southern. How far such peculiarities depend on past history and present political position, and how far on modifications of race, we may not here stop to inquire.

Of the moral condition of Prussia, if we thought ourselves justified in deducing it merely from one easily ascertained circumstance, namely, the existing relation of the sexes, we should necessarily arrive at a very unfavourable conclusion. Illegitimacy of birth has, in some districts, attained to so high a proportion as one twelfth of all the children born, and the occurrence of divorce is appallingly frequent. In Berlin alone, the latter are said to amount to several hundreds annually; and on an average, throughout all Prussia, there is somewhat upwards of three divorces on every hundred marriages. We must, however, remind the reader, that in consequence of the ill-judged relaxation of the marriage laws introduced by Frederick the Great, very slight grounds indeed are sufficient to legalize a separation in all classes of society, even the lowest; such as alleged incompatibility of temper, mutual consent to part, &c. And hence it is obvious that we should be taking a very erroneous view of the case were we to conclude that previous criminality in one of the parties had existed in all such cases of separation.

The practice of divorce has latterly, as we have learned with pleasure, been on the decline, and an improved public opinion is now calling for a reform of the laws relating thereto; and there is good reason to believe that their present defects, which are quite a scandal to Protestantism, will shortly be done away with in a great degree.

As a sign of the times we may mention, that we have ourselves noticed with what difficulty and distrust individuals who had obtained divorces on light grounds and married again, were received even into the mixed and comparatively unscrupulous society of a watering place; and it was daily made obvious by the manifest expression of aversion, that the moral sense even of the somewhat lax Germans was painfully shocked by their presence.

We shall now close this article, which has greatly exceeded the bounds we had allotted to it, with one or two statistical facts. The population of Prussia, according to a recent census, amounts to thirteen millions three hundred thousand souls; whilst the revenue is about nine millions of our money, which implies a taxation of about fourteen shillings per head, or about half of the rate in France, or scarce one third of that in Great Britain. Somewhere about half a million is appropriated