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No. 4, Nov. 8

Subject
Military prospects
of the Army Land Parade
N.Y. 1898

Ret.
The Military Aspects of the Day Parade.

It has been my privilege to witness parades in this country and in Europe these many years. I was present at the Centennial, the Grant Memorial, several inaugerals in the Capital, and, as you know, participated in the Grand Review of the Armies of the East and West at the close of the Civil War. But not until that I have ever witnessed has approached this Dewey Parade in its principal features.

The military performance itself has been greatly enhanced by capital organization and arrangement. The arrangement of the short platoons and marching the column closed in mass facilitated everything and resulted in a solidity and continuity not before attained on similar occasions. The effect of the arms to any observer who could take in a half-mile of Riverside Drive, 72nd Street, or Fifth Avenue, was beyond description in its completeness and brilliancy.

Of course, the framework adds to any picture. Here was a military picture continued as far as the eye could reach with a framework of magnificent decorations in windows, over doorways, and dropping from roofs and walls; brilliant in the colors we love, the Red, White, and Blue, and studded with stars, a firmament of them. Yet, something far beyond the rich decorations was found in the throngs and throngs of people, orderly, decorous, happy men, women and children who formed the best part of the whole framework. The military exhibit, mile in extent, was indeed a patriot's cause, a panacea.

There was no instant when the hero we were honoring was passing any given point, that the burst of applause, the acclams of voices in every key, did not give a voluntary tribute to him as the embodiment of America's best manhood. - one of nature's noblemen.
Similar shouts of welcome and appreciation were heard when Genl. Roe and his staff set out, turned a corner, or passed a new street. The corps of Cadets, which always marches well, the National Guard of New York, proud of its attainment and leader, were stimulated more than ever by the great occasion. Germany’s best soldiers could scarcely equal their performance. Besides these home bodies of military men, which included the Naval Militia and Old Guard, there were others from the
Pennsylvania,
other states, New Jersey, Georgia, Conn., New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Ohio, Indiana, Mississippi, Maine, Florida, Texas, District of Columbia, and particularly including the Highlanders of Toronto. These guest detachments received scarcely less applause and admiration, and justly so, than the home troops. The crowds of on-lookers were not only active with their voices but also with their small flags, with their handkerchiefs, and with their hands, never ceasing to clap with lively satisfaction.

The veterans, when they started on their march, were not so many as some had hoped to see, but they showed a vigor not anticipated; their uniform was multiform; their badges showed hundreds of organizations; and dear ladies, through the Daughters of the Revolution, had already taken pains, while the Old Boys were waiting, to crown them with flowers. A wreath was thrown over the neck of the handsome horse ridden by their commander. Other wreaths reached the hands of his staff, and every veteran had a bunch of flowers, always arranged to show the Red, White, and Blue. What could be more appropriate than these decorations so tenderly given to these representatives of our veterans, to whom
The country owes its very existence.

The veterans followed the armed men as by special favor.

The service that these new veterans had rendered in their
short and decisive war justly received the praise and plaudits of all
observers. Now that they have recovered from their fevers—yellow,
malarial, and typhoid— they step out with a firmer tread and with a
better set-up figure than we men of the past can command, however ar-
bitions we may be. We did not begrudge the joyous welcome from
happy voices, bright eyes, and smiling faces, and active hands that fol-
lowed them all the way from One Hundred and Sixteenth Street through
the Arch at Madison Square.

Of course, the pageant viewed by Admiral Dewey and those gathered
about him, from start to finish excelled that apparent to any other
single observer, except that the view of some of the onlookers took
in not only the unsurpassed military column, but also embraced a
view of the official stand, which with the Modest Home, surprised beyond
measure at all this devotion, officers in the variegated uniform
gathered around him and all the gaily dressed multitude behind him, all this
afforded a spectacle beautiful enough, lively enough, and impressive.
enough for any single occasion. a production of high art

The Arch of Triumpa with its outlying pillars was stately, was
noble, was magnificent; yet we feared a great clogging and delay in the
steadiness of the march at this point because of the narrowness of
the Arch, its portal being only 35 feet wide, and therefore admitting
only 16 of the average abreast. This of course caused one or two
files to break to the rear, but happily the delay of the march was
inconsiderable and the dismissal on the different commands at the
point below the Arch was never more successful than in this parade.