

Camp, consisting of a large perforated object of baked clay. It was shaped like a cheese, was $5\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in. thick, and the hole was $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter.

Mr. Tregellas concludes his paper with a description of some cruciform tumuli in Somerset and other parts of the country, and adds:—"Nothing, so far as I am aware, seems to be known positively, at present, of the origin or history of these singular remains, except that they are doubtless of great antiquity. It is interesting to know that there is some reason for supposing that an example existed, not very many years ago, near Wimbleton Camp; and it is to be hoped that any fresh light which

may be thrown upon cruciform tumuli generally may also cast a ray upon the now obscure history of the Camp at Wimbleton."

Though now so lonely and desolate, yet once this old camp must have been a busy haunt of men, and the soldiers of Britain and of Rome must here have met in deadly conflict. So true are the words of Shelley—

"From the most gloomy glens
Of Greenland's sunless clime,
To where the golden fields
Of fertile England spread
Their harvest to the day,
Thou canst not find one spot
Whereon no city stood."

CHAPTER LII.

WIMPLEDON (*continued*)—THE VOLUNTEER ENCAMPMENT.

"Oh, forthwith repair to yon ground,
For many brave youths will be there
To guard all the rights of the crown,
With sword and fence to a hair.

"Fine hats and rich plumes *militaire*,
Blue coats, red collars, all the rest,
From the head to the foot we appear.
All gentlemen soldiers confest."—OLD LOVAL SONG.

Formation of the First Volunteer Association for the Defence of the Country—First Royal Volunteer Review at Wimbleton—Numerical Strength of the Volunteers of Old—Fiery Enthusiasm of the Country at the beginning of the Present Century—Patriotic Songs, &c.—A Defence of the Volunteer System—Revival of the Volunteer Movement in 1859—Formation of the Force—Captain Hans Bauld—The First Volunteer Review by Queen Victoria—Inauguration of the National Rifle Association at Wimbleton—Camp Life at Wimbleton—Prizes, &c.—The Elcho Challenge Shield—The Ashburton Shield—The Butts—Concluding Remarks.

As far back as the year 1797—so, at least, we learn from Bartlett's "History of Wimbleton"—the local vestry took into consideration "the formation of an association towards the defence of the country." A meeting was accordingly held, which was attended by a large number of the parishioners, among them being Mr. John Horne Tooke. Two corps, one of horse and one of foot, were then formed. The leading cavalry volunteers were Earl Spencer, the Right Hon. Henry Dundas, Mr. James Meyrick, Mr. Francis Fowke, and other leading inhabitants. The first chairman of the association was the Rev. Septimus Hodson. The leading infantry volunteers were Mr. W. Rush, Mr. Thomas Eden, and Mr. Gerrard de Visme. Mr. Benjamin Patterson, who acted as lieutenant, succeeded Mr. Hodson as chairman. "The association," remarks Mr. Bartlett, "was maintained for some years with great spirit, a spirit which the ladies of Wimbleton seem thoroughly to have shared, as we find them opening a ladies' subscription for furnishing flannel waistcoats to the Infantry Wimbleton Volunteers,

the waistcoats to be made by the lady subscribers; the highest subscription to be 10s. 6d., the lowest, 2s. 6d."

The example of Wimbleton was speedily followed in other localities, and the rapid progress of the movement is shown by the fact that a twelvemonth later, namely, on the 5th of July, 1798, a Royal Volunteer Review was held on Wimbleton Common, and it is notable as being the first of any importance held there. The following account of the review is quoted from Mr. T. Preston's "Patriots in Arms" (Whittaker, 1881), where a reproduction is given of Rowlandson's rare picture of the scene:—"The corps reviewed was the London and Westminster Light Horse Volunteers, under the command of Colonel Herries. The strength of the regiment was altogether 616, composed of 411 mounted men, divided into six troops, and 205 dismounted men, divided into three troops. They were reviewed by his Majesty George III., who expressed his high approbation of the state of efficiency of the regiment, and of its appearance and discipline.