

OFFICIAL SOUVENIR

OF THE



Unveiling of the Buller Memorial

Wednesday, September 6th, 1905.

ILLUSTRATED.

Price ONE SHILLING.

The Buller Memorial Committee.



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"HONOUR TO THE BRAVE."

THE CAREER OF
General the Right Hon. Sir Redvers H. Buller,

V.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

With the Story of the Buller Statue, and Account of the Unveiling Ceremony.

ILLUSTRATED.

By "OAKEN."

EXETER :

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"DOWNES," THE RESIDENCE OF GENERAL BULLER.

The Career of General the Right Honourable Sir Redvers Buller, V.C.

It is on record that whenever good Queen Bess got into difficulties she forthwith sent for a Devonshire man. Right well was she served, and, from that day to this, at the call of their country Devon men have ever been to the front.

Amongst the names of these brave and strong men Redvers Henry Buller will ever occupy a proud position. Born in 1839 at Downes, near Crediton, this scion of a good old Devonshire family spent his childhood in his native county, and, by a tendency to "kick over the traces," showed early promise of the energy and pluck that have characterized his career. After receiving his education at Eton young Buller at the age of eighteen joined the famous King's Own Rifles "just too late," remarks a biographer, mournfully, "for the Indian Mutiny." The young Ensign did not, however, have long to wait for active service, as after a short stay in India he, with his battalion, was ordered to the Far East to take part in the Chinese War. On August 13th, 1860, Buller received his baptism of fire during the attack on Tang-Ku, and shortly after he took part in the capture of the Taku

Forts and the subsequent march on Peking. Upon the termination of the war he became the proud possessor of the medal and clasp, which decoration has been supplemented by no less than eight others ere the time of writing.

During the Fenian troubles Buller, now a lieutenant, was stationed in Ireland, where he acquired a knowledge of the country which proved to be of great service to him at a later period in his career.

In 1867 the King's Own Rifles were sent to Canada, the country of their origin, and after about two years on garrison duty Lieutenant Buller took part in the Red River Expedition against Louis Riel and his half-breed rebel followers. Shortly after the commencement of the campaign Buller was gazetted Captain and given command of one of the brigades, and in this responsible post had a chance of proving his ability as a leader of men and a skilful organizer. A study of this expedition will reveal the qualities that were to raise Captain Buller to the foremost rank. Of strong physique, with untiring energy and a gluttony for hard work, he was the very man for the task of conveying men, baggage and boats through a difficult country composed of wilderness and water, and he showed not only that he could prepare and carry out a good plan, but that he could get the best possible out of his men. A stern disciplinarian and one who would insist on implicit obedience, he yet managed to imbue the rank-and-file with his own spirit of enthusiasm and determination, and, as ever, found his men ready to make any sacrifice when called upon. His skilful conduct in this bloodless war (for the rebellion collapsed on the arrival of our troops) brought him into favourable notice as a young officer of rare promise.

1873 saw Captain Buller serving his Queen and country in yet another Continent, for, under General Wolseley, he served in the Ashanti War as Deputy-Assistant-Quartermaster-General and Chief of the Intelligence Department. In the latter capacity he accomplished splendid work, and through his energy and ability procured information of the greatest importance. His many duties did not prevent him from taking an active part in the fighting, for we find him foremost in the attack on Essaman, where he had a narrow escape, a slug piercing his compass-case and shattering the instrument. Shortly after Buller was struck down by a sharp attack of malarial fever, but recovered in time to take part in the march to Coomassie, which brought the war to a close. For his services he received the thanks of General Wolseley, and on his return to England obtained his majority and was honoured with a C.B. After the officers of the expedition had been fêted in London Major Buller came home to the West-Country, receiving, needless to say, a hearty welcome. The thoroughness and determination to get the best possible out of everything attempted, so noticeable throughout his military career, also characterized his life as a country gentleman. The estate at Downes was occupied by loyal and prosperous tenants, the fields filled with crops that were unexcelled, whilst Buller's cattle were noted prize-winners, and his stables contained horses that might now-a-days persuade even the most hardened motorist to see the error of his ways. And as the Squire of Downes he spent as much time as the duties of Deputy-Assistant-Adjutant-General would permit in the country, and for the next few years turned his sword into a ploughshare to good purpose.

After this sojourn in Arcadia the outbreak of the Kaffir War must have sent the blood tingling through the veins of such an ardent son of Mars as Major Buller, for we find him volunteering for service. Here he served with Colonel (now Sir Evelyn) Wood, V.C., and was given command of the Frontier Light Horse—an irregular force composed of turbulent, unruly desperadoes who preferred an unfettered life as volunteers to the restrictions of the regular army. Yet, in a wonderfully short space of time, this wild band of heroes was held in sternest discipline by a commander whose word was law and whose grip was iron, a leader whose vocabulary could be as forcible as his silence was foreboding, and whose valour kept him ever in the post of danger. Under Major Buller the Light Horse were augmented from two hundred to four times that number, and many were the daring raids and successful reconnaissances they made in this brief war, which the death of Sandilli, the Kaffir Chieftain, brought to a close after a few months' fighting. Buller, now gazetted Colonel, had but a brief rest ere the long-standing trouble with the Zulus came to a head and demanded his further services. He was soon at his old work again under Colonel Wood, whose force, owing to the early disaster at Isandlwana, was for some time the only body available for offensive operations. As in the Kaffir War, Buller and his Light Horse distinguished themselves by dashing sorties that not only imbued the Zulus with a wholesome dread of the death-dealing white leader, but also secured many prisoners and much-needed supplies for our troops.

And now came the crowning day of a glorious career; it was decided to attack the stronghold of the Zulus on the Inhlobane Mountain, and an ascent was made by different routes. The advance had been carried well forward when Buller learned of the rapid approach of the Zulu army, some 20,000 strong, which threatened to overwhelm our severed forces. Immediate retreat became necessary so as to effect a junction with Colonel Wood's command, and here Buller showed to the full his wonderful capacity, not only as a leader who could cheer his men on to victory, but also conduct a retreat with masterly coolness and skill—one of the greatest tests of a good commander and a brave man. Sending first his contingent of friendly natives, he began the descent of a precipitous mountain, harassed at close quarters on almost every side by an ever-growing swarm of dusky warriors, men who, like our own, despised death and fought with the utmost bravery. Ever foremost in the attack, Colonel Buller was now the last to leave, and with a little band of seven, whose names should ring throughout all posterity, he covered the retreat of his force. The Zulus were close on our men, when that glorious episode occurred,



LADY AUDREY BULLER.

the recollection of which fills every Devonian's heart with pride for his county's brave son. No less than four men did Buller rescue at the imminent risk of his own life. One he actually hauled out of a mass of Zulus; Lieut. Everitt, whose horse was killed, he rescued and dispatched to safety; Trooper Randal he picked up in a state of exhaustion and carried away, and dashing back again, saved Captain D'Arcy who was within eighty yards of the foe. Lastly, when the retreat had been effected and after being in the saddle almost continuously for a hundred hours, this modern Hercules finished his labours by scouring the country with a dozen volunteers and bringing in the last stragglers. Such bravery as Colonel Buller's cannot be overrated, for he showed valour in its rarest and highest form. Heroism in an attack, when the lust of battle causes one and all to "see red" is comparatively simple, but when circumstances offer every possible excuse for "each for himself," the unselfish gallantry shown by our hero on this famous day should be commemorated in glowing verse, read at the head of every regiment and recounted to every child of our race.

Colonel Buller, now the recipient of the V.C., the highest honour that can be offered to a Briton, afterwards fought at Ulundi, and did much to assist in the victory which completed the downfall of the Zulus and practically terminated the war. On his homeward journey he was feted and honoured by such towns in South Africa as he passed through, and after his arrival in Old England accorded a magnificent welcome at Crediton, followed by a grand banquet at Exeter, where, in his reply, he showed the modesty of the truly great by accepting the honour as the representative of his men. At the same time he paid a tribute to the honourable and prominent part taken by his brother Devonians in the war.

In 1880 Buller was appointed Quartermaster General of the North British district, and in the following year was again in South Africa, fighting in the brief campaign which terminated with the disaster at Majuba Hill and the patched-up peace that followed.

Shortly after his home-coming Colonel Buller married the daughter of the Marquis of Townshend, who as Lady Audrey Buller is loved and respected by all, both for her charming personality and her good deeds, not only in our midst, but amongst the "Tommys" at Aldershot.

A few weeks after Buller left England for Egypt, to take part in the expedition against Arabi Pasha, and, by intrepidity and skill, contributed largely to the victories gained by our forces at Kassassin and Tel-el-Kebir. For services in this brief but important campaign he received a Knighthood (K.C.M.G.), the medal and clasp, and the Order of Osmanieh.

In 1883 he was given the post of Assistant-Adjutant-General; in the following year as Second in Command, with the rank of Brigadier-General, he took part in the expedition against Osman Digna, and fought with distinction in the battles of El-Teb and Tamai. The abortive attempt to rescue General Gordon followed closely on this campaign, and after much "spade-work," not showy, but of great importance, Buller was

placed in command of the Abu Klea force, and was on the point of proceeding against Metemmeh when news came of the martyrdom of Gordon and the fall of Khartoum. These events released further hordes of fanatics, and the Desert Column was now in a position of great danger, retreat becoming imperative. At Abu Klea Wells the enemy was encountered and defeated, but this did not stop their advance, and our force was now threatened with annihilation. General Buller, however, succeeded by a skilful ruse in eluding the foe and withdrew his force to safety in a masterly fashion. The war was not prosecuted further and General Buller's services were suitably recognized by the bestowal of a K.C.B. upon him.

About a year later he was despatched to Ireland on a diplomatic mission needing the greatest delicacy and tact. Troubles in the sister isle were assuming serious proportions, and Buller's work was both difficult and dangerous. He soon, however, won the respect and confidence of the people and proved a true friend to them. The writer, who resided in Fair Erin shortly after General Buller's return, can testify to the admiration and enthusiasm his name evoked. Quoth an ex-moonlighter, who had at one time sworn to stay the hand of the English official: "Faith, its a foine man is Buller, an' if all the Saxon Lords and Governors were 'Bullers,' its not Ould Oireland that wud be affther axing for Home Rule at all." It is also remarkable that he as completely won the confidence and regard of the police whom he was sent out to assist. In the words of one of them—"Each man of us would have laid down his life for him."

His mission concluded, General Buller returned to England, was shortly after appointed Quartermaster-General to the Forces, and in 1890 Adjutant-General, which latter appointment he held until 1898, when he succeeded the Duke of Connaught as General Officer Commanding at Aldershot. Here he became deservedly popular, not only by the consideration shown to the rank and file, but by the fearless way in which he carried out reform, regardless of Red Tape or precedent.

In the autumn of 1899 all eyes were turned on Buller as the man to lead our forces in the impending Boer War, and on October 14th he sailed for South Africa. The events following his arrival in that country are of too recent occurrence to need more than the barest reference. It is sufficient to say that in the face of difficulties many and subtle, he, by dogged and repeated efforts, won his way to Ladysmith, and by brilliant generalship in the closing phase of the war contributed largely to its successful issue.

Honours were showered on him both in South Africa and on his return to England, including the presentation, at Exeter, of a sword of honour and the freedom of the city.

Such has been the career of General the Right Honourable Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., G.C.B., G.C.M.G., "one whom England loves for serving her." Long may the "Squire of Downes" be with us, and many times may he pass his counterfeit presentment in Exeter—the latest manifestation of "Honour to the Brave."

A LIST OF GENERAL BULLER'S MEDALS.

CHINA, 1860—2 clasps (Pekin, Taku Forts).

CANADA—3 clasps (Fenian Raid, 1866 ; Fenian Raid, 1870 ; Red River, 1870).

ASHANTI, 1873—1 clasp (Coomassie).

SOUTH AFRICA, 1878-9.

VICTORIA CROSS.

EGYPT, 1882.

EGYPT, 1884-5—4 clasps (The Nile, El Teb-Tamai, Suakim, Tel-el-Kebir).

JUBILEE MEDAL.

SOUTH AFRICA, 1880-1901—6 clasps (Belfast, Laings Nek, Relief of Ladysmith, Orange Free State, Tugela Heights, Cape Colony).



CAPTAIN ADRIAN JONES,

THE Sculptor of the Buller Statue, is a native of Ludlow, Shropshire, and at an early age showed a great taste for art, spending every spare hour in painting. After a military career, which included active service in the Abyssinian Campaign, the Boer War of 1881 and the Nile Expedition, he devoted himself to sculpture, under the tuition of the late C. B. Birch, A.R.A., and became a frequent exhibitor at the Royal Academy, where his three colossal groups, "Duncan's Horse," "Maternal Care," and "The Rape of the Sabines," attracted general attention.

His Majesty the King has commissioned Captain Jones to paint and model the celebrated racehorses Florizel II., Persimmon, Diamond Jubilee and Ambush II. whilst in his Chelsea studio may be seen numerous statuettes and models that have been executed in either silver or bronze for regimental and other presentations.

Amongst other notable examples of his work may be mentioned the National Memorial of Adelaide, the War Memorial to the Royal Marines in St. James's Park, a Statue of Persimmon presented by the Jockey Club to the King, and a colossal Equestrian Statue representing one of the Troopers of the Adelaide Contingent who came to our aid during the late War in South Africa. To this list must be also added the magnificent Statue to General Buller, and the work upon which Captain Adrian Jones is at present engaged—an Equestrian Statue of the late Duke of Cambridge, which, when completed, will be erected in Whitehall.

The Story of the Buller Statue.

NOW that the Statue is an accomplished fact, it may be of public interest to recall the chain of events that led to this happy consummation.

On October 23rd, 1901, it was announced in the Press that General Buller had been deprived of his command "in consequence of a speech delivered;" a meeting was at once convened by the then Mayor of Exeter (Mr. A. E. Dunn) and held on October 25th, when the following resolution was passed amidst great enthusiasm:—

"Resolved, that this meeting, recognising the brilliant services to his Sovereign and country rendered by the Right Honourable General Sir Redvers Buller, V.C., in various parts of the world during a period of 42 years, desire to express its unshaken confidence in him as a skilful and gallant soldier."

In his opening speech the Chairman (Mr. A. E. Dunn) pointed out that the meeting was devoid of any political significance [as was proved by the presence that day of gentlemen holding widely divergent views], and, alluding to the circumstances that had brought the meeting together, said:

"After General Buller's return from South Africa, His Majesty, on advice of competent authorities, appointed him to one of the highest military commands. From that moment certain persons, whose names were unknown and who preferred to strike in the dark, attacked in the public press the reputation, not only of the General, but of those who served under him. It might be that military regulations and etiquette demanded silence from the soldier thus attacked; at any rate Sir Redvers broke that silence, and probably at the same time those regulations, but, surely if an offence had been committed it merited a lesser punishment than that promulgated.

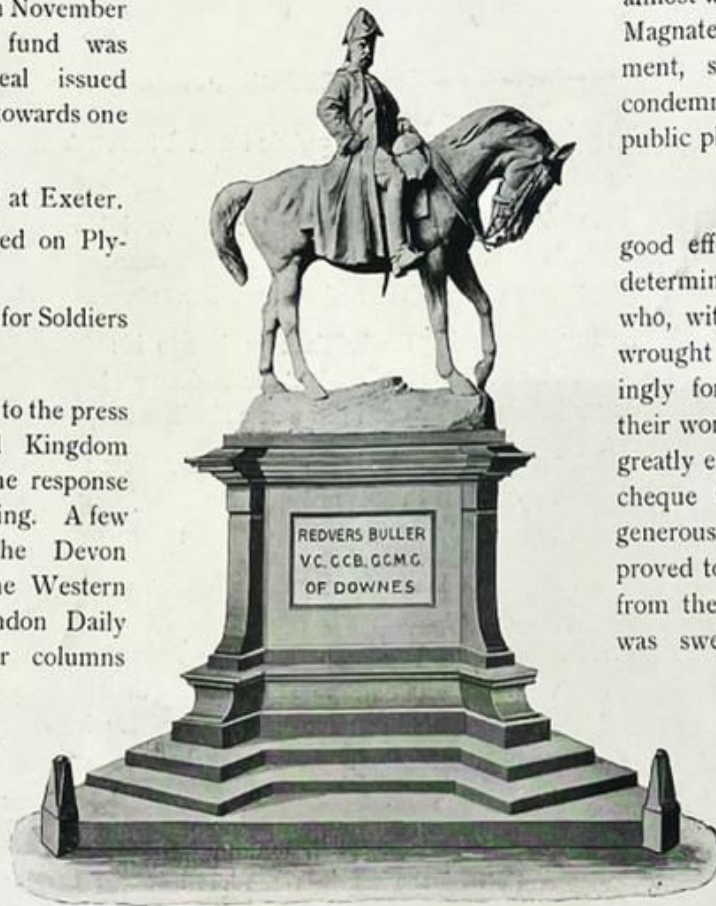
That meeting was called in no antagonistic spirit, nor for the purpose of condemning any man, but simply to show their high appreciation of the services rendered to the commonwealth by Sir Redvers Buller."

The resolution, proposed from the chair, was seconded by the Mayor of Okehampton (Mr. H. Geen) and supported by Alderman Narraway (Deputy Mayor of Bideford), Mr. G. Lambert, M.P., and Mr. H. Churcher (Chairman of the Crediton Urban District Council). In spite of the statement from the Chair, a large number of influential men refused to support the movement on the ground of its apparent antagonism to the Government.

A Committee was, however, formed to take steps to commemorate, in the County of Devon, General Buller's services, and an Executive, comprised of Mr. A. E. Dunn (Chairman), Dr. Domville, Messrs. E. C. Perry, J. A. Loram, W. Wreford with Messrs. C. J. Ross and T. Linscott as Honorary Secretaries, at once set to work to start the movement. On November 1st, 1901, a shilling fund was opened, and an appeal issued asking for subscriptions towards one of the following objects :

- A Statue to be erected at Exeter.
- A Statue to be erected on Plymouth Hoe.
- A Convalescent Home for Soldiers at Crediton.

This was issued to the press throughout the United Kingdom and the Colonies, but the response was not at first encouraging. A few papers, including "The Devon Evening Express," "The Western Times," and "The London Daily Express," opened their columns for subscriptions, but the great majority stood aloof, probably through fear that the scheme was doomed to failure ; and, indeed, things looked far from promising, for



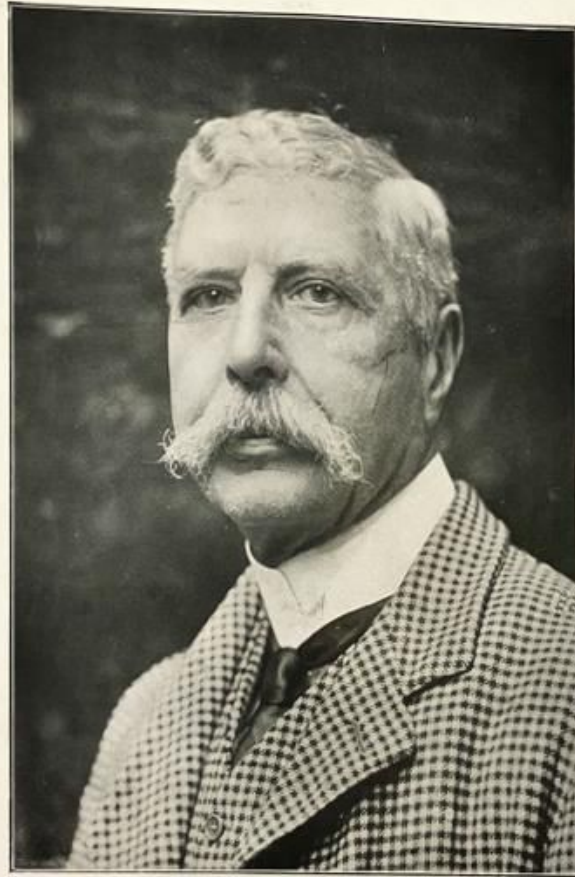
This opposition had one good effect ; it aroused a spirit of determination in the Committee, who, with their fighting Chairman, wrought strenuously and perseveringly for the accomplishment of their worthy object, and were soon greatly encouraged by a substantial cheque from Lord Ashton. This generous and timely contribution proved to be the turning point, and from thence on, the Shilling Fund was swelled by a steady silver stream from all parts of the world. Souvenirs were given to subscribers, and in many a labourer's cottage may now be seen this evidence of patriotic self-denial.

The form of commemoration having been decided upon, in May, 1903, the Committee were enabled (after the Chairman and Secretary had interviewed certain artists) to place the order for an equestrian statue of General Buller with the well-known sculptor, Captain Adrian Jones,

The next question was to decide on a site and many spots were suggested, including London Inn Square and the entrance to Bedford Circus. The sculptor inspected the various places, with the result that, acting on his recommendation, the Committee decided on the space in front of Bury Meadow, and their decision meets with general approval.

Further help was rendered by Lord St. Levan's gift of the granite, carriage free, and by the City Council's offer to make the foundations for the pedestal. Their labours thus lightened, the Committee passed on to the selection of a suitable inscription, and, after much deliberation, decided on its present form.

Nothing further remained to be done until the completion of the Statue. This was expected in June, but a strike at the foundry caused considerable delay, and it was not until two months later that a date could be fixed for the Unveiling Ceremony. General Buller's old friend and comrade (Viscount Wolseley) readily undertook this function, but, owing to imperative orders



CAPTAIN ADRIAN JONES.

from his medical adviser, was most unwillingly obliged to forego what to him would have been the greatest personal pleasure in thus honouring Sir Redvers. The Lord Lieutenant of Devon (Viscount Ebrington) was then approached, and at once kindly consented to perform the ceremony.

The date once fixed on, a programme was arranged, and the final arrangements for the Unveiling completed.

So after a long and stern fight against prejudice and hostility, the Buller Memorial Committee have brought their labours to a successful issue, and by their labour of love have earned the thanks and gratitude of all who appreciate the paying of "Honour to whom Honour is due."

It is fitting that the Unveiling of the Statue should take place during the present Mayor's (Mr. E. C. Perry) year of office, seeing that he was one of the originators, and that he has taken so active a part in bringing the movement to this satisfactory conclusion.

Anveiling.

Programme of the Day's Proceedings, Wednesday, September 6th, 1905.

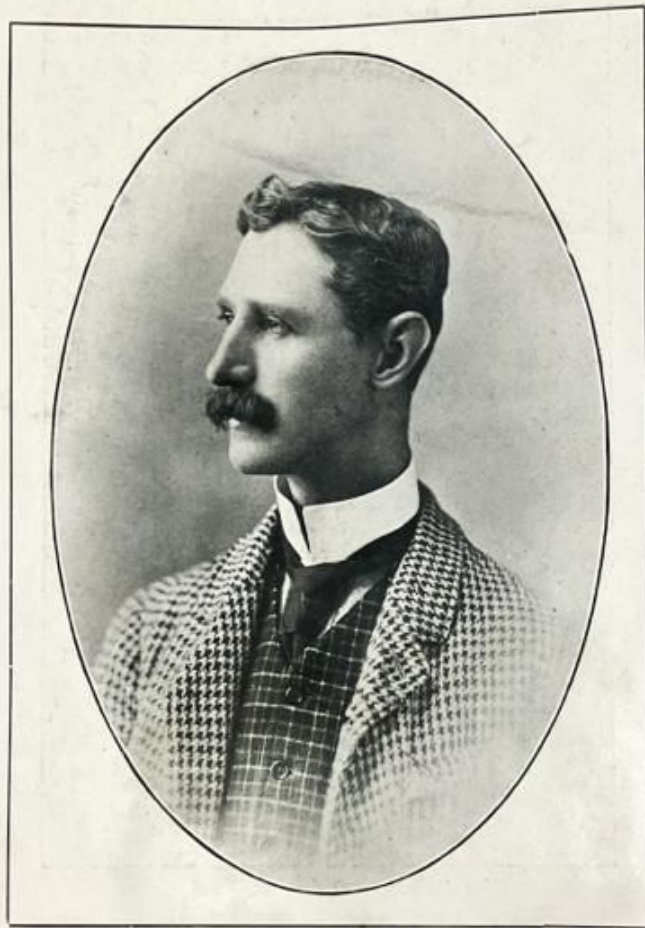
11.45—Assemble at the Guildhall.

12.0 —Civic Welcome to the Lord Lieutenant of the County, the Mayors of Western Counties and Visitors, by the Right Worshipful the Mayor (Edwin C. Perry, Esq.) Admission to the Guildhall will be by Ticket.

12.45—Civic Procession from the Guildhall, arriving at the site of the Statue, fronting the entrance to Hele's School and Bury Meadow at one o'clock, where the Band of the 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifles will be in attendance at 12 o'clock and play selections.

1.0 —The Ceremony of Unveiling to be performed by the Lord Lieutenant of Devon.

2.0 —Reception in Upper Room, Victoria Hall, by the Right Worshipful the Mayor and Mayoress of Exeter to General



THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF DEVON.

7.30—Band Performance in the Belmont Pleasure Grounds, by the Band of the 4th Batt. Devonshire Regiment.
Band Performance in the St. Thomas Pleasure Grounds by the Band of the 1st Rifle Volunteers.

Sir Redvers and Lady Audrey Buller and other invited guests.

2.30—Luncheon at the Victoria Hall, presided over by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Exeter.

2.45—Band Performance on Northernhay by the Band of the 4th Batt. Devonshire Regiment.

5.0 —Tea at Bury Meadow to Navy and Army Veterans. Limited to 500, preference being given to those who have served with General Buller. During the Tea a Musical Programme will be rendered by Members of the Western Counties' Musical Association, Oratorio Society, and Male Voice Choir, and selections by the Band.

7.30—Illuminated Band Performance on Northernhay by the Band of the 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifles.

Programme of the Unveiling Ceremony.

Civic Procession arrives at the site of the Statue, fronting entrance to Hele's School and Bury Meadow.

Surrounding the platform from which the Unveiling will take place will be: (1) a Special Reserved Enclosure for Representatives of the City and County and those specially invited; (2) the Grand Stand immediately fronting the Statue, tickets (coloured Pink) entrance Hele Road; and (3) Special Reserved Enclosure, tickets (coloured Blue) entrance Hele Road; (4) Reserved Enclosure, Tickets (coloured Green) entrance Queen Street.

The bands of the 4th Battalion King's Royal Rifles, 4th Battalion Devonshire Regiment and 1st R. Volunteers, and combined Chorus from Western Counties' Association, Exeter Oratorio Society, and Male Voice Choir will occupy the platform adjoining Hele's School Gate.

The Chairman of the Committee (Mr. A. E. Dunn) will ask the Lord Lieutenant to unveil the Statue.

Exeter, will accept it.

The combined Chorus will then sing "God Save the King," accompanied by the Band.



THE MAYOR OF EXETER.

Immediately on the unveiling, "Elgar's" song, "Land of Hope and Glory," with chorus, will be sung by the Western Counties' Musical Association, Oratorio Society, and Male Voice Choir, accompanied by the band:

Dear land of hope, thy hope is crown'd,
God make thee mightier yet!
On Sov'ran brows, beloved, renowned,
Once more thy crown is set.
Thine equal laws, by freedom gained,
Have ruled thee well and long,
By Freedom gained, by Truth maintained,
Thine Empire shall be strong.

Chorus:

Land of Hope and Glory, Mother of the Free,
How shall we extol thee, who art born of thee?
Wider still and wider shall thy bounds be set;
God, Who made thee mighty, make thee mightier yet.

Thy fame is ancient as the days,
An ocean large and wide;
A pride that dares, and heeds not praise,
A stern and silent pride;
Not that false joy that dreams content
With what our sires have won;
The blood a hero sire hath spent
Still nerves a hero son.

The Lord Lieutenant, on behalf of the Subscribers, will present the Statue to the City of Exeter, and the Right Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of the Citizens of

Luncheon, Victoria Large Hall.

- 2.0 Reception in the Upper Room, Victoria Hall, by the Right Worshipful the Mayor and Mayoress of Exeter.
- 2.25 The Guests will proceed downstairs to the Hall. A plan of the room will be given to ticket holders, who are asked to at once proceed to take their allotted seats.
- 2.30 Luncheon.
- Gentlemen's Cloak Room—First door, right hand side, in Entrance Hall. Ladies' Cloak Room—Second door, right hand side.



A. E. DUNN, ESQ. (CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE.)

Tea to the Navy and Army Veterans, in Bury Meadow, 5 p.m.

A Tea to Navy and Army Veterans, limited to 500, preference to those who have served with General Buller, will be given in Bury Meadow (close to the site of the Statue of General Buller).

During and after the Tea a Musical Programme will be rendered by Members of the Western Counties' Musical Association, Oratorio Society, and Male Voice Choir, and Selections by the Band,