


**An Account of the Behaviour of the Derbyshire
Regiment raised against the Rebels in the
year 1745 under the command of His
Grace the Duke of Devonshire.**

Contributed by Major J. H. LESLIE,
Late Royal Artillery.

*(A Squib of the last century, copied from a MS. in the possession
of Col. A. J. Shuttleworth, Hathersage Hall, Derbyshire.)*

“  ND whilst these things were doing, Devonshire arose and said unto the King, ‘O King, live for ever ; let thine enemies fall down before the face of thy mighty men. Behold now, if I have found favour in thy sight, grant unto thy servant thy Royal Commission, that I may raise a regiment in the province where I dwell : for why should thy servant be idle when the enemies of the King are conspiring against him ?

“ And the saying pleased the King, and he answered him, ‘ Do as thou hast said : and, of the regiment to be raised, be thou Colonel.’

“ Now this Devonshire was a mighty man, honoured of his King, and beloved of his country. He had been twice Viceroy of the kingdom of Ireland, and, moreover, he was Lieutenant of the county of Derby.

“ And he drew near unto Derby and said unto the rulers thereof and to the mighty men of the neighbouring villages, ‘ Draw near unto me all ye that are loyal and true of heart, and hearken to my voice. For Issachar, the Pretender, is approaching: he hath taken the capital of Caledonia, he threateneth to bring us to bondage, to put a yoke upon our necks, and make us bow down to idols. Now, therefore, be ye steadfast and unmovable: gird every man his sword upon his thigh, and let us behave ourselves valiantly, that George, the King, may know that the men of Derby are good and true.’ Moreover, he said unto them, ‘ Unstring all your purses that we may raise us a regiment, and I will contribute largely thereto: my son also shall lay on an helping hand.’

“ And he began to collect, albeit many who had large possessions were poor in spirit: and the sum collected amounted to six thousand talents.

“ And he began to appoint Captains over Tens, and Captains over Fifties, Lieutenants and Standard Bearers appointed He.

“ Moreover, at the request of Nathan, were men appointed, not men of valour, serving only for pay: and this grieved Devonshire sorely, for he said, ‘ Surely we shall become a scorn and derision to our enemies.’

“ And the number of the Regiment was six hundred men.

“ And they were arrayed in blue according to the tradition of Samuel the scribe, albeit it was a colour of no repute, for the men of that garb had fled before their enemies in Germany.

“ Now there was among the Captains a man named Lowe, of the tribe of H—l—d;* he was a mighty hunter, and he said to his company, ‘ Verily, Issachar and his men are rebels, therefore will we pursue them unto the uttermost corners of the land until we have destroyed them’; for he said in his heart They will flee before us even as the timorous hare fleeth.

“ And he made a great boasting among his kinsfolk and acquaintance saying, ‘ My men will follow me wherever I go.’

“ And Devonshire sent letters unto the several officers saying, ‘ Gather yourselves together, both you and your men, that I may review you.’

* Hazlewood.

“So they assembled and came to Derby even as he had said unto them. And they drew out into a plain called the Holmes (the same is encompassed by the River Derwent), and were reviewed there.

“And Devonshire looked, and behold many of them were striplings, and not able to wield the sword.

“And he shook his head and said, ‘Are those thy mighty men, O Derby? The Lord protect thee, for vain is the help of these men.’

“And whilst they were yet in the field, tidings were brought, saying, ‘Issachar is at Ashbourne, and he will be with you on the morrow.’

“And when Devonshire heard these words his wrath was kindled, and he said, ‘Surely their advance guard cannot exceed six hundred men? Why then should we be afraid? So let every man be of good cheer, and prepare himself for battle. Let us meet them on the Plains of Shirley, for I trust in the Lord we shall discomfit them.’

“Albeit fear came upon them and sorrow, so that they hearkened not unto the voice of Devonshire, for they said: ‘Should we be slain, our wives would weep and our daughters would make lamentations.’ So every man took up his weapon and prepared to flee.

“And when Devonshire saw that he prevailed not, he reasoned with them, saying, ‘If you are determined to go, let us join ourselves to William, the King’s son, who lieth in Staffordshire, or unto Wade, the General, who is in the province of York; peradventure we may serve our country.’

“And they communed among themselves, saying, ‘If we join ourselves to William we shall be in great danger, but if we join ourselves to Wade, then shall we be safe, for behold he is a peaceable man.’

“So they went forward to Nottingham under covert of the night. And Devonshire said: ‘Go, refresh yourselves, lest you faint by the way, and lest you be slain on empty stomachs.’

“And there was given to each man a portion of bread and cheese; moreover, they had strong drink in abundance.

“ And about the tenth hour they departed, some shouting as for a victory, others with weeping and swearing and gnashing of teeth, and the cry of them was great.

“ And they journied and came to Burrows Ash, a village in the way as thou goest to Nottingham. There they made war upon the poultry, moreover they did eat, and drank much strong drink, and departed forgetting to pay.

“ And it came to pass as they drew nigh unto Nottingham that the noise and fame of them was heard, and it was told, saying, ‘ Issachar is at hand, verily he is on this side Stapleford,’ and the men of Nottingham were right sore afraid, and their hearts failed them. And they sent messengers to spy out the road and to bring them intelligence.

“ And the messengers returned, saying, ‘ It is even so as you have heard: moreover his army consists of ten thousand men.’

“ And the Rulers thereof arose, and laid their heads together, saying, ‘ Lo, the young man cometh for money, let every man prepare his mite, and it shall be well with the town, and he will be merciful unto our wives and to our daughters.’

“ Albeit he came not, so the money was otherwise disposed.

“ And it came to pass that Devonshire arrived at Nottingham, and when the men of the town, even the men of Nottingham, saw that they had been afraid where there was no danger, they threw up their hats, saying, ‘ God bless King George, and may all the machinations of Issachar come to naught.’

“ Albeit, Issachar was at Derby, and heard them not. And when they had refreshed themselves they looked upon one another, and said, ‘ This is no abiding place for us, neither is there any safety in Nottingham.’ And they journied northward, towards Mansfield, by the way of Sherwood. The same is the King’s forest.

“ Now there was among them a standard-bearer named Mills, of the tribe of St. Giles: he was a man of war from his youth, but a great boaster; moreover, he was a publican and a sinner.

“ And he, vaunting himself, said, ‘ In the days of my youth I was accounted a man of valour, and when a drunken blacksmith offended me I smote him with the edge of my sword, that

he died. So will I also do to Issachar, for what is he that defyeth the armies of George our King.'

"And whilst they journied there came a lying messenger unto them, saying, 'Issachar cometh with speed: he will be with you in half an hour.' And Mills cried out with a loud voice, saying, 'Halt, ye men in the front, for our rear is sorely pressed, and we shall inevitably be cut off.'

"And they laughed him to scorn, saying, 'How is the mighty fallen, and his honour laid in the dust.' Nevertheless they slacked not their pace, and happy was the man that was swiftest of foot. And they sent out messengers to spy out the road, lest they should be surprised unawares. And they arrived safe at Mansfield, and there abode that day.

"And the messengers returned, having heard in the night much talking and a noise like unto the tramping of an army. And they made their report unto Devonshire, saying, 'Now of truth the young man approacheth, we have seen them with our eyes, and their vanguard is about two thousand.'

"And when the men of Captain Lowe heard this they cried, saying, 'Captain, what shall we do to be saved?' And he answered them, saying, 'Run, lads, run,' and he turned his back and fled, and they followed him. This was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoke unto Cope, the Squire, saying, 'My men will follow me wherever I go.' And they fled in great confusion, and many being assaulted with the fumes of liquor were sick with fear.

"Albeit it was a false alarm, for it was only an herd of cattle which their owners were driving to a place of security.

"And one of these men lost in his flight a warlike instrument called a drum, yet he turned not back to look after it.

"And Gr—H—n, the Lieutenant, came riding furiously, and he whipt his horse cruelly, saying, 'Flee swiftly, for on thy speed dependeth my life.'

"And he saw not the drum, but rode upon it and burst it, and the noise thereof was like unto the report of a great gun, and the beast was in a fright, and threw his rider to the ground,

and he roared terribly, crying, 'Oh, I am slain': and the stench of that man was grievous to be borne.

"And when they came to Retford they abode until word was brought that the young man was returned from Derby by the way which he came. And they returned back, and when they came nigh unto Derby they gave great shouts, saying, 'Hail, Derby, happy are we to behold thee, for we greatly feared never to have seen thee again.'

"And they came unto Derby with joy and gladness. Albeit they were soon discharged, for Issachar had taken the money which should have maintained them.

"So they were discharged. Each man went his way, some to their labours, some against their wills, but others said, 'We are gentlemen, neither will we any more do servile work,' and those adhered to Granby the Marquess.

"Now the rest of the acts of the Blues, are they not well known? And the money that was expended by them, is it not written in the book of Samuel the Scribe? And these men are called Drivers of Cattle unto this very day."