Royal United Services Institution. Journal

Publication details, including instructions for
authors and subscription information:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/rusi19>

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Published online: 11 Sep 2009.

To cite this article: Lieut.-General F. H. Tyrrell (1903) His Holiness the Popes
Military Household, Royal United Services Institution. Journal, 47:306, 901-914, DOI:
[10.1080/03071840309417545](https://doi.org/10.1080/03071840309417545)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03071840309417545>

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HIS HOLINESS THE POPE'S MILITARY HOUSEHOLD.

By Lieut.-General F. H. TYRRELL (late Indian Army).

THE sword as well as the keys of St. Peter devolved upon his successors in the See of Rome: and the Heads of the Church Militant here on earth found themselves often obliged to resort to carnal weapons, and to methods of warfare other than spiritual to vindicate their rights or to uphold their authority. Pope Julius II. engineered the League of Cambray, which shattered the laborious fabric of Venetian power; and the commanding genius of Pope Pius V. steered the fleets of Christendom to victory at Lepanto. Their successors took a full share in all the wars which continually devastated Italy; but from the limited area of their temporal dominions, and from the unwarlike character of their subjects, they were never able to attain to any considerable degree of military power; and the Papal armies were mere auxiliaries to the mighty hosts of France, Spain, and Austria, which for three centuries and more made the fair fields of Italy the battle-ground of their conflicting interests and ambitions. The Pope's standing Army never earned any great reputation for itself, and in 1798 it was defeated and dissolved by the conquering French Republican invaders, who followed the banners of Buonaparte. During the first half of the nineteenth century the defence and pacification of the States of the Church was undertaken alternately by the Armies of France and Austria; but when the rising tide of the Italian national movement threatened the temporal sovereignty of the Head of the Church, Pope Pio Nono raised an army of 20,000 men, of whom about half were foreign mercenaries and volunteers, from all the Catholic countries of Europe and America, commanded by the French general Lamoricière, who had made his reputation in Algerian warfare. But this army was destroyed by Cialdini's Piedmontese on the fatal field of Castelfidardo, on the 17th September, 1860; and ten years later the Italian troops entered the city of Rome, dispersed the few remaining battalions and squadrons of Papal troops, and confined the authority of the Pope to the precincts of the Vatican. Since that day, now over thirty years ago, the military establishment of His Holiness has been limited to four corps, with an aggregate strength of 500 officers and soldiers, charged with the escort of his person, the guard of his palace, and the maintenance of order at the great feasts and ceremonies in St. Peter's. The organisation, equipment, and history of the household troops of His Holiness are described below: the historical details are taken from the pamphlet by M. Henri de Schaller, entitled "*Histoire*

de la Garde Suisse Pontificale," published at Fribourg in 1897; and from French military periodicals; and from the report of the proceedings at the late celebration of the centenary of the establishment of the Noble Guard, published at the Vatican Press.

The four corps of His Holiness' Military Household take precedence as follows:—

1. The Noble Guard.
2. The Swiss Guard.
3. The Palatine Guard.
4. The Pontifical Gendarmerie.

The first of these is a bodyguard exclusively composed of noblemen and gentlemen; the second and fourth are companies of professional soldiers, regularly enlisted and trained, and living in quarters under military discipline; the third is a volunteer or militia corps of civilian soldiers, only occasionally called out for parade or duty.

All these corps depend for administrative purposes upon the Papal Secretary of State, who, under the late Pope, Leo XIII., was Cardinal Rampolla, while the detail of their duties is arranged and communicated to them by the Major Domo, who occupies the position and performs the functions of the Lord Chamberlain at a Royal Court. The immediate guard of the person and private apartments of His Holiness devolves on the Noble Guard; the Swiss Guards keep the antechambers and the gates of the Vatican; the Pontifical Gendarmi or Carabinieri do the duty of police within the precincts, and in the museums and picture galleries; and the Palatine Guards line the *route* and swell the pomp of the Papal processions when His Holiness descends into St. Peter's on the great festivals of the Church. All these corps are composed of men picked for their fine appearance and good physique, which is set off by their handsome uniforms; and indeed there are no troops to be seen in Europe better dressed, better drilled, and better turned out in all respects than these soldiers of the Church, who form to-day the little garrison of the Vatican. The following details of the history, formation, and equipment of the different corps, may interest some of the readers of the JOURNAL.

THE NOBLE GUARD.

The Pope's Guardia Nobile is one of the few survivals of those companies of gentlemen-troopers who were in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the ornament and the defence of all the Royal Courts of Europe. The Corps dates back its first origin to the year 1485, in the Pontificate of Innocent VIII., whose father, the Cardinal Aran Cibo, is credited with the institution of the first Papal Corps of Guards. Forty years before, the Dauphin, afterwards Charles the Seventh of France, had formed the companies of the Scots Garde-du-corps, and the Scots Gendarmerie from the knights and men-at-arms, whom Archibald "Tineman," Earl of Douglas, had led to the assistance of the French against Henry V.; and Cardinal Ximenes was busy organising the formidable Spanish Standing Army, with which he governed Castile. These examples are supposed to have animated the

Cardinal Cibo with the idea of forming a permanent corps of Household troops for the service of his son, the reigning Pope, and of his successors on the throne of St. Peter's. The company of noble young gallants which he formed to be a permanent escort and personal guard for the Sovereign Pontiff, received the title of *Garde des Chevaux-Légers*, and the badge of a peacock, spreading its plumes, with the motto "*Leauté passe tout*," which was the family device of its founder. The corps was formed in two companies, and the captains were often nephews or relatives of the Pope, or otherwise were scions of the noblest families of Rome. The quarters were near the Vatican by the City gate, which still preserves the memory of the corps in the name of *Porta dei Cavaleggieri*. The corps distinguished itself on many fields of battle; it was annihilated after a desperate defence in the sack of Rome by the army of the Constable Bourbon, and was afterwards reconstituted. The famous Andrea Doria served his apprenticeship to arms in the ranks of the *Cavaleggieri*. To this corps was also confided the *Vexillum* or banner of the Holy Roman Church, which was first consigned by the Supreme Pontiff to the chief leader of a Crusade. The *Vessillifero*, or bearer of this banner, had the rank and insignia of a captain, and on occasions of parade or ceremony rode with his sacred charge between the two captains of the corps. This charge has now descended to the Noble Guard.

In 1555 the Senate of Rome raised a corps of one hundred gentlemen-at-arms from among the nobles of the city, and presented it to Pope Paul IV., who consecrated the Company as "*Cavaliers of the Faith*"; but it was more generally known as the "*Lancie Spezzate*," which may be freely translated in English by "*Free Lances*." In squads of ten they took turns in guarding the private apartments of the Pope, and in escorting him when he went abroad. The Company was not afterwards kept up to full strength, and at the time of its dissolution in 1798, it had dwindled to twenty-four of all ranks.

In that unlucky year the Papal Army was disbanded by the French Republicans, and the corps of *Cavaleggieri*, and of *Lancie Spezzate* were entirely suppressed. When Pope Pius VII. was replaced on the throne of Rome by the First Consul in 1801, he formed the survivors of these two corps, along with novices from the noble families of Rome, into a new corps, to which he gave the title of *Guardia Nobile del Corpo*, and which has remained to this day.

It was at first divided into two companies, but these were afterwards fused into one. The officers are, a lieutenant-general and two brigadier-generals; the sub-officers are, 8 exempts, with the rank and title of colonels, and 8 cadets with the rank and title of lieutenant-colonels; the rank and file comprise 10 captains, 20 lieutenants, and 20 sub-lieutenants. The formation is said to be imitated from that of the Royal Bodyguard of the Kings of Spain. The promotion is made by seniority, through all the grades up to that of brigadier-general; but the office of lieutenant-general or captain of the Company, is filled by selection, and the selection rests with the Pope. Noble birth is an indispensable qualification for enlistment in the corps, and its ranks are filled by the scions of the oldest and noblest families of the Roman aristocracy, the Orsini, the Chigi, the Buoncompagni, the Ludovisi, the Colacicchi, the Gaetani, the Frangipani, and many others. The present Captain of the Guard is Lieutenant-General Prince Don Camillo Rospigliosi. A candidate for the corps must be between the ages of

21 and 25, must be of good physique and of fine presence, and must possess a certain property qualification. The pay is merely nominal, and *pro forma*. Ten guardsmen including an exempt and a cadet mount guard daily in the ante-chamber of the Pope's apartments in the Vatican; and when His Holiness drives in the Palace gardens he is escorted by mounted Noble Guards, the exempt riding by the side of the carriage. When the Pope is carried in the Sedia Gestatoria into St. Peter's or the Sistine Chapel, the Noble Guards surround his chair, marching with drawn swords, preceded and followed by a rank of Swiss halberdiers. The handsome persons and brilliant uniforms of these high-born troopers add considerably to the splendours of the splendid Papal Court. The Noble Guards are also employed as aides to the Nuncios, and as Papal messengers, to bear the Hat to a newly appointed Cardinal, or to carry important despatches.

The Noble Guard has not been fortunate in seeing war service, but it has on several occasions signalised itself by fidelity to its sovereign. In 1808 the Emperor Napoleon's troops occupied the States of the Church, and their general incorporated the Papal army with his own. The Pope, indignant at this arbitrary action, and considering that his colours had been desecrated by subordination to the tricolor, changed them from red and yellow to white and yellow. The Noble Guard adopted a cockade of the new colours, and refused to discard it at the command of the French general, who thereupon made the whole Guard prisoners, and committed them to the Castle of St. Angelo, from which they were not released till after their master had been carried away prisoner to France. After his restoration in 1814, Pope Pius VII. replaced the Noble Guard on its former footing. In May, 1820, he presented them with a new standard, consecrating it with great ceremony in the Pauline Chapel in the Vatican, and he also confided to the charge of the Company the Vexillum, or Banner of the Church. After Pope Pius IX. had secretly fled from Rome in 1848, many of the Noble Guards followed him to Gaëta. The centenary of the establishment of the corps was celebrated at the Vatican on the 11th May, 1901, when Pope Leo. XIII. distributed commemorative medals to the Guardsmen.

The standard, consecrated by Pope Pius VII., is still carried by the Noble Guard. It is of white silk, fringed with gold, and bears the Papal arms, and the armorial bearings of the reigning Pope emblazoned on it in gold and colours. Two streamers fly from the gilt spearhead, with the title of the corps embroidered on them.

The Vessillo di Santa Romana Chiesa is of red silk, studded with golden stars, and with the Papal arms, the mitre and cross-keys, in gold embroidery. The Vessillifero, or standard bearer, whose office has become hereditary in the noble Roman family of Patrizi, wears the uniform of a captain of the Noble Guard, and carries the standard on occasions of its display, between two officers of the Company.

The headdress of the Noble Guard is a silver helmet, with gilt mountings and comb, with a black sealskin band or turban, on the front of which is a silver eight-pointed star, with red enamel centre, bearing the cypher of the corps in gold. The high curving comb is crested with a tail of black horsehair hanging down to the waist of the wearer; and an upright hackle feather, white above and black below, is worn on the left side of the helmet. The full dress (Plate 1) was, until recently, a

coatee with brandebourgs of broad gold lace, but this has lately been changed to a tunic, and the new dress uniform was worn for the first time, at the late jubilee celebrations in St. Peter's. It is a scarlet single-breasted tunic with blue facings and gold lace and buttons, and gold bullion epaulettes. White leather breeches and jack-boots, with gilt spurs are worn, and white gauntlet gloves. The belts are of gold lace, and the officers wear gold sashes. The shoulder-belt, or bandoliera, is of gold lace and blue silk, of a peculiar pattern, said to be copied from that of the Royal Bodyguard of Spain. The arms are, a carbine and cavalry sabre in steel scabbard. In undress the helmet is worn without crest or plume. The undress tunic is of dark blue cloth, double breasted, with light blue collars and cuffs, trimmed with red piping, and gilt buttons. Epaulettes and belts as in full dress. The overalls are light blue, with a double black braid stripe, with Wellington boots and gilt spurs.

The trumpeters, of whom there are 4 in the Company, have a white horsehair crest on their helmets, and a red and white side-plume. Their tunics are sky blue, with red facings, and their shoulder-belts are red and gold. They have gilt trumpets, with red banners, fringed and embroidered with gold.

The blue undress uniform is worn on all guards and ordinary duties; the full dress is reserved for state occasions.

Besides the 4 trumpeters, there are attached to the Guard a maestro d'armi (fencing master), a furiere (troop sergeant-major), a scudiere (equerry), and a magazziniere (storekeeper), for the service of the Company.

THE SWISS GUARD.

In the year 1505 A.D., Pope Julius II. engaged a company of Swiss soldiers to serve as his personal guard. After their victories over the mailed chivalry of Austria and Burgundy, the Swiss had justly earned the reputation of being the best infantry in Europe, and their services were eagerly sought as mercenaries by the Lords of Legions, who were already beginning to replace their untrustworthy levies of feudal vassals by bands of trained soldiers. The militant heads of the Church had already employed Swiss bands against their Italian enemies during the latter half of the fifteenth century, and the Company of Guards raised by Pope Julius was formed of no mere holiday soldiers; it was intended rather as the nucleus of a standing army. It was frequently engaged in the field both against foreign and domestic enemies in those troublous times, and its first captain, Gaspard von Silinen of Lucerne, was killed in battle against the Spaniards at Rimini. The company had three officers, a captain, who had the title of colonel, a lieutenant, who was also grand judge or provost, and an ensign. The uniform of the company was designed by Michael Angelo, and consisted of a doublet and wide knee-breeches of the colours red, yellow, and green, arranged in perpendicular stripes or bands. The arrangement of the colours differed for each side of the dress. The headdress was a black velvet toque, with white plumes for the officers, panaches of red, green, and yellow plumes for the men. In the field, steel morions and corselets, with gorgets, pauldrons, and brassarts, etc., were worn. This old armour is now preserved in the armoury of the company in the Vatican, and some of the pieces still bear the marks of

the shrewd blows they received on many a hard-fought field. The offensive arms were, a halberd or pole-axe, a favourite weapon of the Swiss soldiers, and a huge two-handled sword.

Twenty years after it had been raised the Company of Swiss Guards was almost annihilated in the sack of Rome by the Black Bands of the Constable Bourbon. Forty of the Swiss, who had escorted Pope Clement in his flight to the Castle of St. Angelo, alone survived; all the other officers and men of the company perished at their post, like the Spartans at Thermopylæ; but they sold their lives dearly. The company remained in abeyance after this disaster, but it was re-established by Pope Paul III. in 1548. In that year he concluded a contract or "capitulation" with the four cantons of Lucerne, Schwytz, Uri, and Unterwalden, for the supply of a guard of 225 officers and men, for continuous service. The officers were a captain, with rank of colonel; a lieutenant, ranking as lieutenant-colonel; and a sub-lieutenant and an ensign, ranking as captains. There were 4 sergeants (rottmeister), ranking as lieutenants; 2 trumpeters, and 4 drummers. The company was governed by the Swiss military code, and it was stipulated that it should enjoy the same rights and privileges as the company of the *Cent Suisses* in the service of the King of France. The dress designed by Michael Angelo was retained, but for the colour green there was substituted light blue for the men of Lucerne, and white for those of the Forest Cantons. The officers were armed with partisans, the men with halberds. In the field cuirasses were worn, and a steel morion with a red plume.

The company continued to be employed in war; and some of its men served in the bodyguard of Prosper Colonna, who commanded the Papal galleys at Lepanto, and, as a proof of their valour, they brought away two Turkish pennons, which they carried to their native city, and they may be seen at this day in the Historical Museum at Lucerne.

Afterwards three other companies of Swiss Guards were raised under similar conditions, but they were mostly employed as guards to the Papal governors in the provincial towns. The Popes were anxious to procure further levies of Swiss troops, but the Confederation always declined to sanction the raising of Swiss regiments for the Papal service, though they furnished them to the kings of Naples and Sardinia, as well as to France, Spain, and Holland. They alleged, as the reason for their refusal, their reluctance to expose their troops to the ill-fortune which was the constant attendant of the Papal arms, but no doubt the real reason is to be found in the predominance of the Protestant cantons of Berne and Zurich in the councils of the Confederation.

The Popes, however, retained their four companies of Swiss Guards, by agreement with the Catholic cantons, during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

The first or original company was reduced in numbers, and at the end of the eighteenth century its establishment was a captain, a lieutenant, a sub-lieutenant, and an ensign, each with a superior grade of army rank; a chaplain and a surgeon-major; a sergeant-major, ranking as lieutenant; 6 sergeants, 6 corporals, 4 drummers, 1 fifer, 8 musicians, and 100 halberdiers.

After the conclusion of the war of the Austrian succession by the Peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, Italy enjoyed an unwonted repose from the alarms of war for half a century; but she was rudely awakened from her peaceful dreams by the shock of the French Revolution. In 1798 General Berthier, at the head of the Republican Army, took possession of Rome, and disarmed and disbanded the Swiss Guard. The aged Pope, Pius the Sixth, died a captive, and his successor, Pius the Seventh, concluded a concordat with the First Consul, and resumed the power and state of the supreme Pontiff. In 1801 he re-constituted the company of Swiss Guards with a lieutenant, 5 sub-officers, and 36 privates, who had remained in Rome; and others rejoining, raised the strength to 3 officers and 60 men. But in 1808 the usurpations of Napoleon were answered by the Pope with a Bull of excommunication, and, in consequence, the French troops again occupied Rome, made the Pope a prisoner, and again disarmed and disbanded his guards. In 1814, upon the fall of the Empire, the Pope returned to Rome, and his first act was to reconstitute the company of the Swiss Guard, of which he fixed the strength at 100 men. Pope Leo XII. being troubled by secret societies and revolutionary bands in his dominions, resolved to augment the strength, and in 1824 he concluded a fresh capitulation with the canton of Lucerne, for the supply of 200 men to form the company. The government of the canton preserved the right which it had always enjoyed, of nominating the captain of the company. Out of the twenty captains who had successively held the command, no less than nine belonged to the famous family of the Pfyffers of Lucerne, and at this time there had been six successive captains of the family, which had signalled itself in the wars of the League in France in the sixteenth century, and in the defence of the Tuileries on the fatal 10th of August, 1792. The captaincy continued to be held by Lucernois after the abrogation of the capitulations until 1878, when the Pope appointed Louis de Courten; of the equally famous fighting Valaisan family, which had furnished twenty-four general officers to the different Armies of Europe, and enjoyed the hereditary colonelcy of the Swiss regiment in the service of France, which bore their name. In 1848 the Swiss Guards defended the Palace of the Quirinal against the revolutionary mob, until the Pope ordered them to lay down their arms to stay the effusion of blood. The Pope fled from Rome by stealth, and the Swiss Guard was disbanded by the new Republican Government, but under the terms of the capitulations, which provided for three months' notice or three months' pay. When the Pope, Pius IX., was brought back in triumph by the French troops, he immediately re-established the Company, but he had to make his own arrangements with the officers and men, as the system of capitulations had been condemned by the Swiss Government. The Swiss Guards are now recruited in the Catholic cantons of Switzerland, chiefly by the parish priests. Though foreign enlistments are forbidden by the Federal Law, this infraction of it is winked at by the authorities, and the men have generally performed their obligatory recruits' service in the Federal Militia before they enlist in the Papal ranks. The service is much sought after, and there is no lack of recruits. The men came formerly exclusively from Lucerne and the Forest cantons, but now almost half the company is composed of Valaisans, probably owing to the late captain having been from the Valais. The men are enlisted for 20 years, at the expiration of which time they are entitled to a pension at the rate of two-thirds of their pay, but they can re-

engage to serve on for full-pay pension. The pay of a private is 80 liras or francs per mensem, and that of the other ranks proportionally higher. The men are not allowed to marry while in the service, and married men are not enlisted. Formerly celibacy was not enforced, and many soldiers married Italian women, and their sons were enlisted in the Guard, so that there were to be found Swiss Guards who could speak no language but Italian. The Swiss soldiers have a high reputation in Rome for honesty and fidelity, and many of them, when they quit the service, obtain situations of trust in Italian firms and families.

All ranks live in quarters in the Vatican. There is a library and recreation room provided for the men, and a canteen, where they can purchase provisions at cost price. They receive two meals a day, breakfast of coffee and milk and bread; and dinner of soup, meat, and vegetables. They have to provide their own supper from the canteen, and stoppages for messing and half mounting, etc., are deducted from their monthly pay.

The establishment of the Company was revised by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII. in 1879, and now stands as follows:—

1 Captain	..	..	..	ranking as Colonel.
1 Lieutenant	..	..	..	" Lieut.-Colonel.
1 Sub-lieutenant	..	..	..	" Major.
1 Chaplain	..	..	..	" Major.
1 Quarter-Master and Secretary	}			" Captain.
1 Judge				
1 Exempt				
1 Sergeant-Major	..	..	..	" Lieutenant.
4 Sergeants	..	..	..	" Sub-lieutenant.
7 Corporals	}	..	..	" Sergeant-Major.
2 Portiers				
100 Halberdiers				
2 Drummers	..	..	..	" Sergeant.

Making a total of 123 of all ranks.

There are also a surgeon and a physician, who have the medical charge of the company.

The present captain is Colonel the Baron Meyer von Schauensee, of the famous fighting family from Lucerne, of that name, and there is another Meyer, and also a Pfyffer among the officers of the company. The chaplain of the company is Monsignor Correggiani d'Orelli, who was, before his appointment to the Guard, employed in London in the German Catholic Mission in Whitechapel.

The judge, or richter, of whom there was always one in a Swiss regiment à l'étranger, combines the function of a judge-advocate and a provost-marshal. The portiers, or keepers of the gate, formerly kept the doors of the Papal mint, but now merely share the duties of the other under-officers.

In these days of ceaseless and needless changes in military uniform, it is quite restful to contemplate a corps which, like our own company of Yeomen of the Guard, has preserved the pattern of its dress unaltered for four centuries. The brilliant costume designed by the master-limner, Michael Angelo, still clothes the Swiss sentinel at the Gate of Bronze; and a French writer, M. Boyer d'Agen, who has

described the military establishments of the Vatican, likens him to a gorgeous tropical bird, imprisoned behind the bars of its cage. The threshold of the portal which he guards forms an impassable barrier between the mediæval mercenary soldier, in his splendid and picturesque harlequin dress, and the Italian conscript carabinieri on duty in the Piazza below.

On state occasions the officers and soldiers of the Swiss Guard wear morions of gilt metal, with falling red horsehair plumes, and steel armour of gorget, breastplate, backplate, and pauldrons. Under their armour the officers wear a crimson velvet doublet, and knickerbockers, and crimson stockings.

The sergeants wear a dark blue doublet of antique pattern, laced with broad silver lace on all the seams, crimson knickerbockers and stockings (Plate 2).

The rank and file wear doublet and knickerbockers of scarlet, yellow, and dark blue (the latter so dark as to look like black); the colours are arranged differently on each side of the dress; cloth gaiters, striped black and yellow, and ankle boots (Plate 3). All ranks wear a small starched Medici ruff round the neck. In *alta tenuta*, or full dress, on other than great state occasions, armour is not worn, and the head-dress is then a helmet of the shape worn by the British infantry, but of polished black leather, with gilt mountings, and the cypher of the company in gilt metal on the front plate, and a white falling horsehair plume, like that worn by the Prussian Guards. In *mezza tenuta*, or half dress, a gilt spike is worn instead of the plume, and a white linen false collar replaces the starched ruff.

When armour is not worn the officers wear a dark blue coatee, with red facings and gold lace, dark blue trowsers with red stripe, and the plumed or spiked leathern helmet, in which dress they might easily pass for a Prussian officer, were it not that they wear the old-fashioned coatee instead of the modern tunic. When in armour the officers carry partisans, with their broad blades damascened with gold, and basket-hilted rapiers; otherwise they are armed only with swords. The soldiers carry a halbert, with an ornamental steel axe-head, and a straight sword, with a brass cross-hilt, in a brass-mounted black leather scabbard, on a frog in a buff leather waist-belt. The two portiers carry long pikes like the halberts formerly carried by our infantry sergeants, and six of the men, who march nearest to the chair of His Holiness in the processions, carry huge two-handed swords.

In *bassa tenuta*, or undress, the men wear, instead of a helmet, a dark blue forage cap, with a red band, of the German pattern, while the sergeants wear a blue kepi, like that worn in the Austrian Army. The men mount guard in this dress, and they are then armed with Remington rifles, and sword bayonets, in steel scabbards. Their modern armament contrasts strangely with their mediæval dress, and this contrast is more strongly marked in the company's armoury in their quarters in the Vatican, where the suits of armour, partisans, and halberts are ranged in the racks, beside modern sabres, rifles, and cartouche boxes.

"All the warlike gear of old,
Mixed with what we now behold."

The great-coat, which is seldom required to cover the splendours of their dress in the Roman climate, is of light blue cloth, with a red "paroli," or patch, on the collar, trimmed with yellow cord.

The colour of the Swiss Guard has its field covered with red and white rays, or flames converging to the centre, with the Papal arms emblazoned on it. These rays or flames were common to the colours of all the old Swiss regiments *à l'étranger*, the colours varying according to the regiment, or according to the canton to which it belonged. Formerly the armorial bearings of the captain of the company, were quartered with those of the Pope; but this practice has been discontinued since the nomination of the captain has been transferred from the authorities of the canton of Lucerne to those of the Vatican.

The words of command are given to the company in German. The Swiss Guards drill with a steadiness and precision worthy of the Household Troops at Potsdam or Whitehall. One of the manœuvres which they perform by word of command is kneeling in ranks to salute the passage of the Host, or of His Holiness; a movement which was once familiar to the drill-books of all the Catholic armies of Europe. In the Swiss regiments in the service of France the Protestant soldiers were exempted from this performance; and when the Host was borne past the parade ground of a battalion, the companies from the Protestant cantons stood erect under arms, while the Catholic soldiers knelt on one knee in their ranks.

These parti-coloured halberdiers at the Vatican are now the sole remaining representatives of the fifty thousand Swiss Grenadiers and Fusiliers who, throughout the eighteenth century, mounted the guard at the Tuileries and at the Escorial, at the court of the Bourbon king at Naples, and of the stadtholder at the Hague; who carried their colours with the white Swiss cross through many a flaming battle-field of Flanders and Lombardy, and who dyed with their heroic blood the rocks of the Dalmatian coast and the sandy shores of Mauritania.

THE PALATINE GUARD.

The Palatine Guard is a Papal Volunteer Corps, and the conditions of service in it are much the same as in the Volunteer corps in Great Britain; only its object is not national defence, but simply the maintenance of order among the crowds in St. Peter's on the occasion of Church festivals, and the enhancement of the pomp and parade of the Papal Court. There were formerly two citizen corps maintained in the City of Rome, under the titles of Urban Militia and Civic Guard; but in 1850 Cardinal Antonelli incorporated the two in one corps, which he re-christened the Palatine or Palace Guard.

Under the Papal régime the men of this corps enjoyed many privileges, such as carrying arms, and shooting game without a licence, free passage over the State railways, etc.; but since the occupation of Rome as the Italian capital, these benefits are no longer enjoyed. The Palatine Guard is called upon for duty at the Vatican, or at St. Peter's, about twelve times in the course of the year; each man receives as pay 80 liras or francs per annum, and the officers a larger sum; the field and staff officers draw monthly allowances. The rate of pension is the same, and it is granted after thirty years' service. The men are recruited from the *bourgeoisie* of Rome, shopkeepers and artisans. The corps used to form a battalion, but is now reduced to 170 of all ranks, and there are always plenty of candidates to fill every vacancy, for the service is very popular with the Romans,

and the authorities can pick their recruits. The men have mostly been trained to arms in the National Army.

The staff of the corps consists of a colonel, a lieutenant-colonel, a major, an adjutant-major, and an assistant adjutant. Each company has a captain and two lieutenants as officers, a *furieri* (sergeant), 5 corporals, and 30 privates. There are also 8 drummers for the corps.

The colour is half white and half yellow, with the mitre and cross-keys, and the armorial bearings of the reigning Pope emblazoned on it, and a gilt metal figure of the Archangel Gabriel surmounting the staff, and two streamers with the title of the corps embroidered on them.

All ranks provide their own uniform. The dress much resembles that of the late Voltigeurs of the Garde Impériale of the Emperor Napoleon the Third, or that of the present Garde Républicaine at Paris. It consists of a shako, trimmed with gold lace or yellow braid, with a gilt front plate, bearing the Papal arms, and a scarlet hackle feather; a dark blue single-breasted coatée, with scarlet collar and cuffs, trimmed with yellow braid, yellow fringed epaulettes, and red cord aiguillettes. The trowsers are sky-blue, with broad red stripe. The outfit of a private costs him about 200 liras. The uniforms are kept with the arms at the corps' armoury in the Vatican, and the men put them on there when they go on duty or parade. The arms are a Remington rifle, and sword bayonet in steel scabbard, and the accoutrements are black leather with brass mountings.

Most of the men are decorated, as the colonel receives every year at the Feast of St. Peter a number of silver medals from the Pope for distribution to the officers and men.

The colonel of the corps is Conte Camillo Pecci, a nephew of Pope Leo XIII., who has just succeeded the late veteran, Colonel Comendatore Crostarosa.

THE PONTIFICAL GENDARMES.

The title of Gendarmerie, which is now used as the designation of military police in all the countries of the civilised world, originally simply meant heavy cavalry; and the corps of Pontifical Gendarmes, in its dress and equipment, and in the splendid physique of its troopers, reminds one of that famous regiment of Grenadiers à Cheval of La Vieille Garde, which was the finest of all the fine cavalry corps of Napoleon's invincible army. If their coatées had only white lapels, and red epaulettes instead of white ones, their dress would be an exact copy of that of the splendid Horse Grenadiers whom Marshal Bessières so often led to victory.

The Papal Gendarmerie dates its existence from 1816, in which year Pope Pius VII., restored to the sovereignty of the States of the Church by the fall of his enemy, Napoleon, formed the corps to replace the military police, which had kept the peace of the country under the French usurpation.

After the events of 1860 the functions of the Pontifical Gendarmes were limited to the City of Rome, and since 1870 the corps has been reduced to a single company or squadron, confined to the precincts of the Vatican.

The company has 4 officers, a major or captain as commandant, and 3 lieutenants; 12 non-commissioned officers, viz., 2 marescialli (sergeants), 4 brigadiers (corporal-majors), and 6 corporals, and 80 gendarmes. There are no trumpeters nor musicians.

The men are recruited for 5 years' service, and can renew their engagement till they have served for a pension. The pay of a private gendarme is 80 liras (£3 4s.) a month, and the pension is 60 liras per mensem after 25 years' service. The men are well and comfortably lodged in quarters in the Vatican, like the Swiss Guards; a detachment of ten occupies a small barrack in the Palace gardens.

The Gendarmes are men of fine physique and tall stature, 6 feet and over in height. They perform the duties of keeping order among the pilgrims who visit the Vatican, and the crowds at the high festivals of the Church in St. Peter's. Many of them have already served in the Carabinieri Reale, or Italian constabulary, another fine body of men, the pick of the whole Italian Army.

Though the Pontifical Gendarmes have no longer horses, since they are confined to the limits of the Vatican, they still retain their equipment as a mounted corps.

Their full dress is a tall bearskin cap, with white cords and tassels encircling it, and a scarlet hackle feather on the left side; a dark blue single-breasted coatee, with silver buttons, and silver lace trimming on the collars and cuffs, white turnbacks on the skirts, with grenade ornaments; white fringed epaulettes, and aiguillettes; white leather breeches and jack boots with steel spurs, complete the dress (Plate 4). The accoutrements are, white leather cross belts, with brass breast-plate, with the cypher of the corps; one belt carries the pouch, the other has slings like the shoulder-belt formerly worn by our infantry adjutants, and carries a cavalry sabre in steel scabbard. White gauntlet gloves are worn in full dress, and the sword knot is of white leather. In undress a cocked hat is worn across, like that of Napoleon, with silver loop and button, and yellow and white cockade; epaulettes and aiguillettes as in full dress, but the pouch belt is laid aside, and only the sword belt is worn. The overalls are light blue, with double black mohair braid stripe; Wellington boots and steel spurs. In *mezza tenuta* (half dress) an upright scarlet hackle feather is worn in the cocked hat; in *bassa tenuta* (undress) a scarlet tuft; when off duty a blue kepi, with silver band, is worn. The horse furniture is dark blue, trimmed with white braid, but the Gendarmes have no occasion for it now. They wear a long dark blue horseman's cloak, with silver buttons and scarlet lining and collar. The arms are a Remington carbine and cavalry sabre.

The squadron has a standard of the Papal colours, half yellow and half white, with the cypher of the corps embroidered on it.

The commandant of the corps is Major the Cavaliere Tagliaferri.

There is also a corps of Pompieri, or Firemen, for the service of the Vatican, who, like all Continental fire brigades, have a military equipment. Their dress is, a brass helmet with comb, a double-breasted dark blue coatee, with red facings and brass buttons, epaulettes with brass scales and red fringe; dark blue trousers, with red stripe; and black leather belts.

The Corps of Papal Dragoons no longer exists, but its showy uniform is still to be seen sometimes at the Papal Court. The helmet was

NO. 1.—AN OFFICER OF THE GUARDIA NOBILE IN THE OLD STATE UNIFORM.

NO. 2.—A SERGEANT OF THE SWISS GUARDS IN STATE UNIFORM.

NO. 3.—A PRIVATE OF THE SWISS GUARDS IN STATE UNIFORM.

NO. 4.—A PRIVATE OF THE PONTIFICAL GENDARMES IN FULL DRESS.

similar to that of the Noble Guard, but had a scarlet side-plume; the coat was dark green, with red facings, and plastron like that worn by our Lancers, and silver epaulettes; the overalls were sky-blue, with broad red stripe; and the accoutrements were of white leather.

The Knights Hospitallers of St. John of Jerusalem, the last remnant of the Christian chivalry of the Crusading ages, have taken up their final abode at the Court of the spiritual sovereign, whose behests they so long and so faithfully obeyed. A century ago they ranked with emperors and kings as the Sovereign Order of Malta, where their palaces now serve as barracks for British soldiers.

There is something pathetic in the spectacle of this little garrison of the Vatican, with its old-world forms and old-fashioned dress, standing immovably to its arms, in the midst of a strange and hostile world, round the throne of the Ruler, at whose nod all the swords in Christendom would once have leapt from their scabbards.