Correspondence

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SWISS SOLDIERS IN CLIVE'S ARMY.

The bi-centenary of the birth of Clive, which has recently been celebrated in England, may serve as a fitting occasion to remember for a moment the 600 or more Swiss officers and men who helped the Caesar of India to wrest that fair domain from the valient Frenchman Dupleix and the Indian nabobs. English historians from the 18th to the 20th century are all agreed that the Swiss soldiers in the service of the East India Company belonged to the very backbone of Clive's little army, that they served England well and were ever true to their own motto: Honneur et Fidélité. Two Swiss officers may even be said to have been Clive's immediate instructors in the field. One of them, Captain Paradis, probably from Mulhouse (then a Swiss city), served in the French army, whilst the other, Captain de Gingins, a Vaudois, commanded the little force in which Clive held his first commission as an army service captain. Neither Paradis nor Gingins seem to be remembered in their own country, and not a voice was raised when French historians claimed them as their own compatriots. We are therefore greatly indebted to the Hon. J. W. Fortescue and other British writers for their vindication of the merits of our brave old countrymen.

Captain Paradis was an engineer. He had gained the absolute confidence of Dupleix, as much by his bravery and skill as by manifesting a violent opposition to Dupleix's rival La Bourdonnais. Dupleix, in compensation, appointed Paradis Governor of Madras and gave him the command of a little detachment, which from Pondichery was to force its way to Madras. The men at first objected to the foreigner and the engineer, but a setback soon made them submit to a commander who was to lead them to victory and immortal glory. They were only 230 Europeans and 700 Sepoys with not a single gun, who, on November 4th, 1746, near St. Thomé, found themselves opposed by a splendid Indian army of the dreadful Maphuz Khan, numbering more than 10,000 men, with plenty of cavalry and very powerful artillery, in a well chosen and strongly fortified position on the banks of a deep river. Every other commander would have fallen back rather than try his luck against such dreadful odds Not so Paradis, who felt himself able to supply any deficiency of his little army, being born with the qualities which no soldier can acquire, decision of character, calmness and energy. "Now, after a century and a half of fighting in India," says Fortescue, "no British officer would be for a moment at a loss as to the course to be pursued: but Paradis had neither tradition nor experience to guide him. However, whether by intuition or from despair, he did exactly what he ought. Knowing the river to be fordable, he led his men without hesitation across it and straight upon the enemy, scrambled up the bank, gave them one volley, and charged with the bayonet. The effect of this bold attack was instantaneous. . . ." Within an hour's time the impregnable camp was lost and won. The Indians tried to make a stand behind new palisades and the walls of the town, but the French, always advancing in good order, and firing by sections as they did so, forced the enemy from all his positions. A small detachment coming up from the rear completed the rout.

"It was now more than a century," writes Orme, the contemporary historian of that period, "since any of the European nations had gained a decisive advantage in war against the officers of the Great Moghul. The experience of former unsuccessful enterprises, and the scantiness of military abilities which prevailed in all the colonies, from a long disuse of arms, had persuaded them that the Moors were a brave and formidable enemy." Paradis broke this spell of timorous opinion by smashing an army with a single battalion. "It may well be asserted," writes Col. Malleson in his 'History of the French in India,' "that of all the decisive actions that have been fought in India, there is not one more memorable than this." The circumstance which stamps it as such is that it was the very first of its kind, that it proved, to the surprise of both parties, the overwhelming superiority of the European soldier to his Asiatic rival. It inaugurated a new era, it introduced a fresh order of things, it was the first step to the conquest of Hindustan by a European power. "Whether that power were French or English," says Malleson, "would depend upon the relative strength of the two nations, and even more upon the character of the men by whom that strength should be put in action. The battle which introduced this change deserves, then, to be well remembered; and, in recalling it to our memories, let not us, who are English, forget that the merit of it is due, solely and entirely, to that great nation which fought with us the battle of empire on Indian soil, and did not win it."... And what, one cannot help feeling on reading this chivalrous distribution of compliments, what about the little Swiss soldier who did the thing? If we agree with Fortescue that the British had no tradition to guide them in such a situation, we might say that for a Swiss it was just the kind of fight our ancestors liked best. Is it not in the tradition of Grandson, Morat, Dornach, and Novarra? "Of all the fruits of the long friendship which French and Swiss sealed with each other's blood in the furious struggle of Marignagno," says the great historian of the English Army, "none is more remarkable than this (St. Thomé). The memory of Paradis should be honoured in England, since he taught us the secret of the conquest of India."

The first to learn the lesson of St. Thomé was Robert Clive himself, who at the moment of the battle was a prisoner-of-war at Madras, and had ample time to occupy his mind with visions of conquest and empire, which appeared to him to offer a quicker road to fame and fortune than the toil of a clerk and trader. So far English and French had been nominally at peace in India. They were, however, busily intriguing under the cover of Indian nabobs, and making preparations for the struggle which everybody felt to be imminent. Very much would, of course, depend on which side would be able to get the biggest number of recruits from Europe. With men like Paradis there could have been little doubt that Dupleix would have been successful, as he was the first in the field. But Paradis was killed near Oulgary before Pondichery, in an attack on some trenches held for the Indians by a handful of English officers and men. He fell when he was almost eye to eye with a young English ensign—Robert Clive again. The French reinforcements which arrived from Europe were of the worst description, "un ramassis de gueux, vils coquins que 100 hommes devaient battre," wrote Dupleix himself on February 15th, 1753, and he repeated his demand for "600 Suisses par exemple, qui encadreraient bien les recrues."

Dupleix had to go without the Swiss, the English having secured them in the meantime. Captain de Gingins—Gingen, as the English call him—seems to have gone to India alone or with a British transport in 1750. Eearly in 1751 we find him commanding a detachment of Europeans and Indians which was to oppose the forces of Dupleix and Chunda Sahib. But Gingen's troops were worse even than the French. They would run away at the mere sight of the enemy. Their commander took infinite pains to hold them together and to turn these recruits into soldiers. He succeeded by dint of perseverance, by an example of personal bravery and integrity which shamed the cowards into discipline and inspired the brave with confidence in their leader. His best assistant in this work was the commissariat officer of the detachment—Captain Clive. In April, 1751, Gingen was able to carry the fortified position of the French and Indians near Verdachelum, but in a new encounter, which took place in May near Valconda, on the road between Arcot and Trichinopoly, the English force suffered a defeat and was almost dispersed. Gingen fell back upon Trichinopoly, where he shut himself up, whilst Clive got his first independent mission, which was to go to Madras, to form a new army there, and bring it up to the rescue of Pondichery. Gingen was in the meantime holding out bravely with his little force, whose morale had become decidedly better. "It was now," says Orme, "that the English began to be ashamed of having retreated before such an enemy; and judging, as usual, from events, to blame their commander for an excess of caution in his retreat, of which their own panics had been the principal cause, for Gingen was undoubtedly a man of courage and had seen much service in Europe. . . . His prudence became absolutely necessary now, as the French had taken possession of posts in which they could do no harm to the town, but from which they could not be driven without great loss. He therefore determined to preserve his men, whilst the enemy fatigued their troops and exhausted their ammunition to no purpose." The situation was indeed extremely difficult. Food was scarce, and there was such a lack of ammunition that every French shot and cannon ball was carefully collected. Once he was able to cut off a body of French dragoons by a successful ambuscade, an event which made his men more impatient than ever. At last Clive arrived with the new army, with which, near Kaveripak, he had gained his first great victory under conditions almost identical with those which had confronted Paradis at St. Thomé.

Whilst Captain Gingen's name disappears from the lists, a great deal is heard in Clive's and Lawrence's reports and memoirs about the Swiss companies which early in 1752 had landed on Indian soil. Sir Luke Schaub, a citizen of Basle, who had been George the First's ambassador at Versailles, had conducted the negotiations which led to the engagement by the East India Company of four companies of infantry and two companies of artillery from the Protestant cantons. The first or Grenadier Company, under the command of Captain Chabbert of Geneva, served under Lawrence in this first campaign. It made itself so much feared that Frenchmen and Indians gave up all hope and disbanded when the grenadiers appeared (Cultru: Dupleix). And they seemed to be always present where and when they were most wanted. We need not be surprised when we learn that they suffered terrible losses too, as is seen from the frequent change of commanders (Chabbert, Gaupp, Gurtler, Polier). The second company, commanded by Captain Henri Schaub of Basle, a nephew of Sir Luke, had the misfortune to be taken at sea before they could land. They made up for the time thus lost after being set free in 1754. The third Swiss company, under Captain Paul Polier de Bottens, seems to have replaced the grenadiers when that excellent corps was surprised whilst covering a convoy in 1754, and was destroyed to a man. The fourth company, under Captain Ziegler of Berne, was chiefly used in Bengal. Some writers mention a fifth and even a sixth company, but nothing is known of their existence in the reords we have seen, likewise no records seem to be left of the second company of artillery, whilst the first, under Captain Louis d'Illens of Lausanne, had as brilliant a record as the grenadiers.

From some letters of these officers we learn that the relations between the Swiss and their British comrades were most cordial. Whether it was this good fellowship, or the fact that the ranks of the Swiss companies could no longer be filled up, that induced the authorities to merge the Swiss into English units in 1758, we cannot now decide. To one privilege, however, the Swiss held fast wherever they served: they would not stand the indignity of bodily punishment, which was usual in the English armies even much later, and no Swiss soldier was to be court-martialled, except by judges of his own nationality.

Very much could be said about the fate and the deeds of valour of individual officers and men. Captain Polier, for instance, who at Seringham decided the issue of the battle and was given the command of a division, but being twice wounded had to pass it on to Captain Calliaud. Distinguished and wounded again and again, he rose to the rank of Major-General and Governor of Fort St. George on the coast of Coromandel. Captain Fischer distinguished himself at the taking of Machlipatanam, and there was quite a little band of young Balese officers (Schaub, Gaupp, Gürtler, de Beck, Wagner) who vied with each other in personal bravery and a rapid rise to higher commissions. They were far outdone, however, by their fellow-citizen Daniel Frischmann, who, having gone out to India as a private, returned after 18 years with the rank of a Colonel. He was indeed lucky to have come out of as many dangers and fevers as would beset a man in India. Most of his 600 comrades never returned. Nevertheless they were followed by many hundred men about 40 years later, when the Neuchâtel Regiment de Meuron passed from the Dutch service into that of Great Britain, and in the taking of Seringapatam won the praise of Wellington himself.

But that's another story.

(Dr. A. Lätt in "The Swiss Monthly.")

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer.*

AN ANOMALY IN SWISS LAW.

My attention has been repeatedly drawn to the fact that Swiss Law does not allow the Swiss Citizens living abroad to take part and vote in Federal affairs, elections or otherwise, if they are not three months at home. It happened to me when in Switzerland three years ago, when two ballots took place on the same day: one for cantonal affairs and the other for capital levy. I was allowed to record my vote in the Cantonal ballot box, but not in the other one, because the Federal Law forbade me.

Last year, on the occasion of the election for members of the National Council on the 25th of October, in the well-known commune of Blenio (Semione), eight or nine Swiss citizens, all well-to-do compatriots having businesses on the South Coast of England, were on holiday at home in their own houses with their families, but could not take part in the ballot.

There was even one in military uniform who was called up for service in the army as soon as he arrived there, but was not allowed to vote. He has done his military duty, but could not exercise his right to the ballot. It goes without saying that all these people got so excited that they were cursing their own country, and the soldier dashed his kepi to the ground and smashed it up.

The emigrant represents the Quatrième Suisse —he leaves home with the intention of doing a bit of good to himself, his parents and his family, who may be in stringent financial circumstances, but always intending, as soon as favourable circumstances will permit, to return to his fireside.

Armed with this resolution, he goes and commences to work hard in some employment. He lives in a most economical way. Bit by bit, as time goes on, with a little luck he obtains promotion and earns a little more. In time, as the opportunity presents itself, he may see his way to start in business for himself, and if Fortune smiles on him, establish a decent position. During this time he does not forget his duties at home, he pays rates and taxes, he pays off the old debts burdening his father's property, and perhaps he tries to buy some more in addition. He pays military tax on his income at home and abroad,

At times he puts his generous hand in his pocket to help some unlucky suffering colleague, or subscribes to some list circulating in favour of some national disaster. After all this he finds time for his holidays at home. When he arrives there he is embraced by his relations and welcomed by all his friends. But the law says, "For the time being you are a stranger; three months must pass before you are a full-fledged Swiss citizen." If he has not the time to stay he leaves, still a stranger.

Some time ago I think the question was raised to ascertain if it would be possible to give emigrants the chance to record their votes abroad, but it was found too difficult and was therefore dropped.

Supposing, for argument's sake, that, being prevented from recording their vote abroad, these citizens returned to Switzerland to exercise the suffrage. When they arrive they are strangers and must wait three months before being officially recognised as Swiss. Where is the love for the emigrant? Where is justice?

I am pleased to see the Council of the N.S.H. has consented to take the matter in hand and passed a resolution to this effect. I hope this resolution will be communicated to other Groups and will find an echo amongst all of them in every part of the world G. CUSI.

VACANCIES IN SWITZERLAND.

At the request of the Federal Labour Office (Eidgen. Arbeitsamt, 8, Bundesgasse, Bern) we are publishing, at regular intervals, lists of special vacancies in Switzerland for which suitable candidates are not available at home. Whilst it is intended to fill these vacancies, whenever possible, with Swiss from abroad, applications are considered from foreigners possessing the necessary qualifications. Offers, stating date of publication and reference number, should be addressed to the Swiss Consulate in whose district the applicant resides, and will then be forwarded to the proper quarter in Switzerland. We publish the list in the original text as received from the Labour Office.

A 10800 **Stollen-Mineure**, 12, mit Praxis in Stollenarbeit; nach dem Berner Oberland.
D 10928 **Capo-birraio** per una fabbrica di birra nel Cantone Ticino.
E 10932 **Coupeuse-directrice**, expérimentée, connaissant à fond l'achat des modèles; pour atelier de couture pr. dames à Lausanne.
F 3 **Sellai per automobili**, 2, per il Cantone Ticino.
G 10935 **Maurer-Polier**, besonders auf Tiefbau und heiklen Wasserbau eingearbeiteter; für Tiefbauunternehmung in Biel.
G 33 **Treppen-Monteur**, selbständiger, auf Patent-Beton-Spezialitäten; für Betongesellschaft am Bodensee.
H 10970 **Glas-Schleifer**, erstklassiger, speziell im Kanten- und Fassettenschleifen für Glaskasten bewanderter; für Schaukastenfabrik in Luzern.
H 8 **Scoccai per automobili**, 2, per il Cantone Ticino.
J 10906 **Appreturmeister** gelernter, mit Ausweisen über gleiche Tätigkeit; für Tuchfabrik im Kanton Zürich.
J 10913 **Detacheur**, lediger, mit erstklassigen Berufsausweisen; für chemische Waschanstalt und Kleiderfärberei in Basel.
K 10914 **Maschinenmeister**, gelernter Tiefdruckmaschinenmeister auf Palatiapresse; für Kunstinstitut in Zürich.
M 10 **Seifensieder**, gelernter; für Seifenfabrik am Zürichsee.
N 10897 **Monteur auf graphische Maschinen**, gelernter Spezialist, für Maschinenfabrik in der Nähe von Zürich.
N 10908 **Maschinenmeister**, mit Maschinen- und Branchenkenntnissen; für Papiersackfabrik im St. Galler Oberland.
N 10945 **Galvaniseur**, selbständiger, mit guten Berufsausweisen, der zugleich den Magazindienst zu besorgen hätte; für Nähmaschinenfabrik im Kanton Luzern.
N 10946 **Karosserie-Bankschmied**, mit Ausweisen über gleiche Berufstätigkeit; für Karosseriebaugeschäft in Basel.
N 10963 **Maschinen-Optiker**, gelernter; für die optische Abteilung einer Instrumentenfabrik.
N 14 **Hammerschmied**, selbständiger, mit prima Berufsausweisen über Tätigkeit in grösserem Hammerwerk; nach dem Kanton Luzern.
N 15 **Autospengler**, mit Praxis in der Autobranche und in der Spühlkastenfabrikation bewandert; für Spenglerei in der Nähe von Zürich.
N 42 **Monotype-Giesser**, gelernter Schriftgiesser, auf Monotypemaschinen; für Buchdruckerei in Winterthur.
N 43 **Blattzahnmacher**, gelernter; für Webereiutensilienfabrik im Zürcher Oberland.
Q 10916 **Croupiers**, 5, womöglich mit den neuen sog. "Geschicklichkeits-Spielen" gründlich vertraute, französisch und englisch sprechende; für Fremdenkurort des Kantons Graubünden in Saisonstellung.
N 44 **Autogenschweisser**, mit guten Ausweisen; für Maschinenfabrik in Schaffhausen.
S 10919 **Drogistin**, gelernte, mit Kenntnissen der französischen und engl. Sprache, sowie der einfachen Buchführung; für Apotheke und Drogerie in Zürich.
S 10949 **Färbereitechniker**, zur Leitung eines Betriebes der Woll- und Seidenfärberei im Kanton Aargau.
S 21 **Chemiker**, erstklassiger, mit langjähriger Erfahrung in der synthetischen Kampherfabrikation; nach dem Kanton Bern.
S 22 **Technischer Leiter**, mit der Herstellung von Kochfett vertrauter; für Kochfettfabrik in Zürich.
S 23 **Assistant-pharmacien**, possédant le brevet spécial pour l'exercice de la profession d'assistant-pharmacien; pour pharmacie à La Chaux-de-Fonds.
V 10922 **Tanzlehrer**, 2, als Leiter und Arrangeure des 5-Uhr-Tanztees u. der gelegentlichen abendlichen Festlichkeiten, Saisonstellen; nach dem Kanton Graubünden.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Monthly Meeting, held on 12th January, 1926, at Pagani's Restaurant.

The first Monthly Meeting in the new year united twenty-five members and guests in the more and more hospitable and comfortable King Edward VII. Room at Pagani's Restaurant. The Vice-President, Mr. G. Marchand, took the Chair, and proposed the honoured toasts of "The King" and "La Patrie." A cordial welcome was extended to the guests of several of the members.

The Vice-President, Mr. Marchand, on his return from his recent trip to Switzerland, delighted the members quite particularly, on extending to them all the cordial greetings from their President, Prof. Eugène Borel, entrusted to him personally on the occasion of his short stay in Geneva.

There were no admissions, whereas one resignation tendered was accepted with regrets.

Last year's delegates to the Swiss Sports, viz., Messrs. J. Oltramare, A. L. Despond and A. Rueff, were unanimously re-elected.

On the proposition of Mr. C. Chapuis, seconded by Mr. Campart, and carried unanimously, it was decided to fix tentatively Friday, 26th November, at the Hotel Victoria, for this year's Annual Banquet and Ball.

Mr. G. Marchand also read a telegram of congratulation, sent on behalf of the City Swiss Club to Dr. Haeberlin on the occasion of his election as President of the Federal Council of Switzerland.

Mr. Schupbach proposed that, in view of the pending liquidation of the Swiss House, the Club do transfer its one share in this institution to the Fonds Dimier—proposal seconded by Mr. Rueff, supported by Mr. C. Chapuis, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Campart wished to congratulate the Committee on the great success achieved in making such perfect arrangements for the Annual Banquet and Ball held last month, and which proved once again to be a most enjoyable reunion of the Swiss Colony in general and the members of the City Swiss Club in particular.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.15.

M. G.

GIUSEPPE ANDREA SIMONA †

Colla morte del signor Giuseppe Andrea Simona, avvenuta in Londra il 8 cor. nella patriarcale età di anni 92 questa società deplora la perdita di un'altro socio fondatore e dell'unico depositario sociale primitivo superstite. I dilni funerali, semplici, come lo fu semplice la vita del caro Trapassato ebbero luogo al cimitero di Kensal Green l'11 cor. Un mestro stuolo di parenti ed amici segui il feretro alla sua ultima dimora. La società era rappresentata dal Vice-Presidente sig. C. Berti, dal tesoriere sig. E. Biucchi, dal segretario sig. O. Gambazzi e da altri soci che colla loro presenza vollero dare l'ultimo saluto a chi fece tanto per il sodalizio. La società mandò come emblema sociale un cuscinetto collo stemma ticinese in fiori freschi e colla dedica:

"Al socio fondatore Giuseppe Andrea Simona l'Unione Ticinese dolente."

La trascrizione della bellissima partecipazione funebre ai soci è il miglior tributo alla memoria del caro Estinto:

Pochi dei soci attivi attuali possono ricordarne la preziosa attività e le simpatiche sembianze. Uno fra i migliori dei pionieri della emigrazione Ticinese in Londra, le sue feconde attività sono consegnate a carattere d'oro nei verbali e registri della nostra Società, alla cui fondazione e sostegno nei primordi di esistenza il Trapassato ha contribuito in modo segace e proficuo.

Con Lui tramonta un'epoca che ogni Ticinese dovrebbe studiare e affermarsi nelle tradizioni della nostra stirpe, per mantenere vivo lo spirito che ha animato i nostri predecessori nel loro attaccamento alla patria nativa in paese straniero.

L'AMICO G.

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EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2
(Langue française.)

Dimanche, 17 Janv., 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
3.15.—Anciens catéchumènes, au presbytère.
6.30.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme: Phil. 2, 12 ff.
7.30.—Reprise des répétitions du Choeur Mixte. Invitation cordiale à chacun.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1798). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE
(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)
St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 17. Januar, 11 Uhr vorm.—Predigt.
6.30 Uhr nachm.—Gesangsgottesdienst.
Dienstag, 19. Januar, 3 Uhr nachm.—"Nähverein" im Foyer Suisse.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag, 12—1, St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2;
Mittwoch, 12—2, 'Foyer Suisse,' 12. Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1 (am Wohnort des Pfarrers).
Pfr. C. Th. Hahn.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Jan. 16th, at 6.30.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

Wednesday, Jan. 20th, at 7.30.—NOUVELLE SOC. HELVETIQUE: Council Meeting at 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Saturday, 23rd Jan., at 6.30.—SWISS Y.M.C.A.: Lantern Lecture, "Nerves and Health," by Dr. Horatio Matthews, of Harley St., followed by Social, at "Foyer Suisse," 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

Sunday, Feb. 7th, at 6.30.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Concert at St. Marylebone Hall, 181, Marylebone Road, N.W.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY.—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

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