

to duty and self-reliance, even amidst the very agonies of death. (Applause.) Our Leviathans afloat, the craft of all sort and sizes that represent our navy are log sailing, as Rudyard Kipling has it. "Across seas, coast-wise, round the world and back again" to guard our distant possessions and commerce, and to maintain our maritime supremacy; and I am sure we must have complete confidence that, wherever they are, they will do us credit, and that no evil can possibly befall them for want of courage and devotion on the part of those by whom they are manned. (Applause.) As to the army, I would ask you also to toast this service with a lively appreciation of its splendid achievements in the brave days of old on every occasion when it was required, and with complete confidence also in its readiness to undertake at the present time any duty that may devolve upon it. Many of us had an opportunity, on the occasion of the recent Royal Wedding, of seeing considerable bodies of troops in our streets, and I am quite sure we must have been struck and impressed by their splendid appearance, soldierly bearing, and by the admirable precision of all their movements. (Applause.) Turning to the reserve forces, the militia and the volunteers, I have great pleasure in recommending them to your notice, for extraordinary as that statement may sound, I am myself a volunteer—I regret to say, a member of the medical staff corps, and not a commissioned officer, but a plain, unadulterated private, and one who is so devoted to the ranks that he has even abstained from becoming a lance-corporal. (Laughter.) If I was not the first, I believe I was one of the first of the volunteers to join the force in 1860, when it was originally formed under, I won't say a sense of scare, but a sense of some apprehension, that the late Emperor of the French might endeavour to consolidate his throne or distract the attention of his subjects from domestic affairs by attempting the invasion of this country. A belief that something of the kind would be attempted, was very prevalent, not only in this country, but also in France, and I well recollect reading at the time a letter in a French newspaper from a special correspondent despatched to this country, to report upon the volunteer movement, who, having seen some deep drainage going on for agricultural purposes as he passed through Sussex and Kent, reported that the occupation of England by the French was regarded as inevitable, and that the English being a prudent people, were engaged in digging long lines of graves in the proximity of the probable field of battle (much laughter). The volunteer movement, though it originated in a sense of apprehension, did not terminate when that sense of apprehension passed away. It was recognised as a movement of great national utility, and it has been pushed on with determination until it has attained its present proud position, and in the last week the whole nation has been listening to the crack of the rifles at Bisley. (Laughter and applause.) I am quite sure that our reserve forces or the volunteers, and our militia, would instantly form a bristling hedge around our shores should any foreign cattle manifest a disposition to browse on English pastures. (Hear, hear.) Ladies and gentlemen, I have to couple with this toast the name of an eminent man and a very old friend of my own, Sir Joseph Fayrer. (Applause.) I made the acquaintance of Sir Joseph Fayrer I think about thirty years ago, when he had just arrived in this country, fresh from the trials, dangers, and difficulties of the Indian Mutiny, and since that time, during all these years, his friendship

has been an unflinching source of pride and of pleasure to me. Sir Joseph Fayrer combines in a singular degree great administrative powers with high scientific attainments and great professional skill, and I should detain you for a very long time were I to attempt to enumerate to you the excellent surgical works that he did in India, the great sanitary work that he did there, the excellent scientific work that he has done with reference to fevers and kindred subjects, since he returned to this country, the lively interest that he has always taken in sanitary science, in all medical questions, and, last but not least, in the Royal British Nurses' Association. (Applause.) In him I find combined in an admirable manner the best characteristics of the soldier, and the first qualities and attainments of the man of science. But, ladies and gentlemen, I have to couple another name with this toast; and I venture to think that, in the long annals of public dinners in this country, there has never been an occasion before upon which a lady has been called upon to return thanks for the Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces. (Applause.) I am going to submit to you, not the name of a fanatical queen of strife, not of an amazon, but of a Nurse, a Nurse militant and a Nurse ministrant—(applause)—who has done admirable work and has indelibly associated her name with the Indian Army. Miss Loch—(applause)—after that thorough, wide and complete training which we insist upon, and shall always, I hope, insist upon, acted, I believe, as ward Sister in St. Bartholomew's Hospital. (Hear, hear.) She was then, I believe, selected by the Government of India to organise the new Nursing system in that great dependency, and, I think, I shall be borne out by those who know her career, when I say that there she has done admirable work. (Applause.) She has passed through, I believe, the perils and disasters of frontier warfare in the last five years; she has earned the Royal Red Cross, and I think that she still is ready and willing to further, with admirable work, the cause of nursing in India. Ladies and gentlemen, one word of apology. I was detained by a professional engagement at Bournemouth till half-past three this afternoon, and I can assure you that a hurried railway journey and a rush from the station, do not constitute the best preparation for rhetorical efforts, especially when those efforts are sandwiched between the eloquence that has been, and that is to be, of Sir William Savory. Nevertheless, without further comment, relying upon the inherent strength of the subject, I propose to you "The Army, Navy, and Reserve Forces," coupled with the name of Sir Joseph Fayrer and Miss Loch. (Applause.)

SIR JOSEPH FAYRER, in reply, said: Mr. Chairman, Sir James Crichton Browne, ladies and gentlemen,—I beg to thank you very cordially for the generous terms in which you, Sir James, have spoken of the Navy, the Army, the Indian service, and the Reserve Forces. I also tend you my thanks for the too gracious terms in which you have been pleased to connect my name with this toast. I think, sir, as you have said, the circumstances attending the proposal of this toast to-night are as interesting as they are peculiar. It is probably the first time—certainly if not the first, one of the first—upon which the gentler sex has been called upon, in union with the sterner sex, to return thanks for the services. (Applause.) I am sure I hope that I feel sufficiently honoured in having my name coupled in this way. I can only regret, sir, that you have not found it expedient to devolve this duty upon a member of what is called the combatant department of the services—though I have never been able to

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