ADMIRAL

DEWEY'S

(Reedy)

Grand
Triumphal

MARCH

P. MARCEL

ONE WHO "REMEMBERS THE MAINE."

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GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW.

The Unity of England and America

MAY BE THE RESULT OF THE

Visit of the Ancient and Honorable

Artillery Company of Massachusetts
to England in 1896.

The summer of 1896 is memorable in the military annals of the United States from the fact that in July of that year "The Ancients" visited London, where they were shown unusual honor, and were accorded the privilege, never before conferred by Englishmen upon flags of their Nation and State.

The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts enjoys the distinction of being the oldest chartered organization on the North American Continent, dating its existence from March 13, 1638, when Governor John Winthrop issued the incorporating document to "The Military Company of the Massachusetts," as it was first called.

Its prototype was the Honourable Artillery Company of London, which was chartered 101 years earlier, of which Robert Keayne, first commander of the Boston company, was a member prior to his settlement in the colony. Later its name was changed to the present well-known title, and this has been abbreviated by familiar usage to "The Ancients."

Little intercourse between the old-world organization and its offshoot had taken place in the intervening years until 1854, when Capt. Marshall P. Wilder and the English Prince Consort, who was then in command of the London company, had some correspondence, which resulted in an exchange of records, and was followed in 1857 by the election of Prince Albert to honorary membership in the American organization.

The Prince of Wales has since received the same honor.

In the year 1887, however, a number of members of the Ancients visited the Artillery company in London and the following summer a return visit of about a score of the London members was made to Boston. Strong ties of friendship between the two bodies were formed and in 1894 the project was broached of a trip abroad by the Massachusetts command in a body to visit the London organization.

Elaborate preparations were made and wealthy members pledged large contingent sums for the company funds, in order that the event might be successful without regard to expense. June 29, 1896, was the appointed date of departure. On that day, after they had been viewed at the State House by Governor Wolcott and had received from his hands handsome new National and State flags, as he bade them God-speed on their journey, they embarked on the Guadalupe Servia for their eventful voyage. There were upward of 150 members on board, and many of them were accompanied by their families.

Reaching Liverpool July 7, they were received on their arrival with genuine English hospitality. From the moment of their debarkation their visit was one round of receptions and fetes. A special train conveyed them to London, where they were quartered at the Hotel Cecil.

The next day they proceeded by train to Windsor, and were received by Queen Victoria, a luncheon being given in their honor. July 9 they were present by special invitation at a review on the field of Aldershot, a compliment paid only twice previously to foreigners, and then only to the Czar of Russia and the Emperor of Germany. Upward of 8000 troops marched past and the commander of the Ancients stood with General Lord Wolseley and the Duke of Connaught, who was in command, receiving the salutes as the flower of the British soldiery marched by. One of the pleasant incidents of the day was a request from the Duke of Connaught to be photographed with the American National color-bearer.

On all occasions escorts were provided from the London company, and the Earl of Denbigh, its virtual commander, the Prince of Wales being honorary colonel, was present to extend official courtesies at the various receptions and entertainments.

But the climax in the enthusiasm of the occasion was reached at the banquet given by the Massachusetts Ancients to the London Artillery in King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, London, in the evening.

This hall is the finest banquet room in the world, and on this evening it was magnificent with the grandeur of magical lights, brilliant costumes and a most distinguished assemblage. The participants included the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, Duke of Connaught, Lord Salisbury the premier, Duke of Westminster, Earl of Denbigh, Earl of Rosebery, Lord Wolseley, Lord Colville, Chief Justice Lord Russell, Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, Lord Roberts, Lord Beresford, Lord Mayor Wilkin and a host of other notables, including Ambassador Bayard, Consul-General Collins, Chauncey M. Depew and Sir Henry Irving.

On this occasion the commander of the Ancients won the hearts of all Englishmen by his happy allusion in proposing the health of the ruler of Great Britain, saying that "Her Majesty's queenliness as a woman and her womanliness as a queen clothed both her throne and her home with dignity, purity and honor." The Prince of Wales made fitting response and touched upon international friendship in a way that indicated the drift of English sentiment toward an alliance with the United States. Other speeches were made by several of the English guests in similar vein, among the responses being one from the American Union from Hon. Chauncey M. Depew and one from Mr. Henry Irving.

Next day the Ancients paid a visit to the Prince and Princess of Wales at Marlborough House, and in the evening the official recognitions came to a close with a smoking concert at the Armory.

Private hospitalities continued, however, and during the remainder of their sojourn the Ancients visited many points of interest and made many lasting friendships with English hearts. What was originally intended simply as a friendly interchange of courtesies between two kindred societies meanwhile broadened into goodwill and international amity on the part of the two kindred peoples which these military bodies represented, and may have laid the foundation for a future consummation of the much discussed Anglo-Saxon alliance, to be further strengthened by the visit of the London Co. to Boston in 1900. Incomplete indeed would be the narrative of the war of 1898 which did not give due prominence to the cordial understanding between England and the United States—an understanding which was in large measure made possible, it is believed, through the visit paid to the Honourable Artillery Company of London by the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

To commemorate this occurrence, which has assumed such historical significance in the light of subsequent events, The Ancients Abroad March was written for Piano by Boston's gifted young artist, Mr. S. G. Cook, and arranged for Military Band and Orchestra by Conductor Jean M. Missard, of the Salem Cadet Band, which accompanied the Ancients on their trip to England.

The song is a stirring one, and as the music enfolds the inspiration as the beauty of a cluster of gems is heightened by a magnificent setting. The Ancients Abroad March is played by bands and orchestras from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and is found in the musical library of every regimental band in the United States. The inscriptions written about it would fill a book, and all who hear the march demand an explanation.

The handsome illuminated title page of the composition in patriotic red, white and blue illuminated with gold, with the crowned lion and winged eagle, over whose heads wave the flags of the American Union and British Empire, symbolizes a friendship that found fitting recognition of its importance in the presence of royalty to do honor to citizens of the United States at Windsor, Aldershot, Marlborough House and Holborn Banquet Hall.

The Ancients Abroad March can be had from all Music Dealers. Price, for Piano, Band or Orchestra, 50 cents each. Be sure to ask your Music Dealer for it. To see it or hear it, is to buy it.

F. TRIFET, Publisher, 36 Bromfield Street, BOSTON, MASS.