

**FRENCH'S
CAVALRY
CAMPAIGN**

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French's cavalry campaign by J. G. Maydon

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J. G. MAYDON

**FRENCH'S
CAVALRY
CAMPAIGN**



Lambert Weston & Son,

[Folliott.]

General French.

French's Cavalry Campaign

By

J. G. Maydon

Member of Legislative Assembly, Natal

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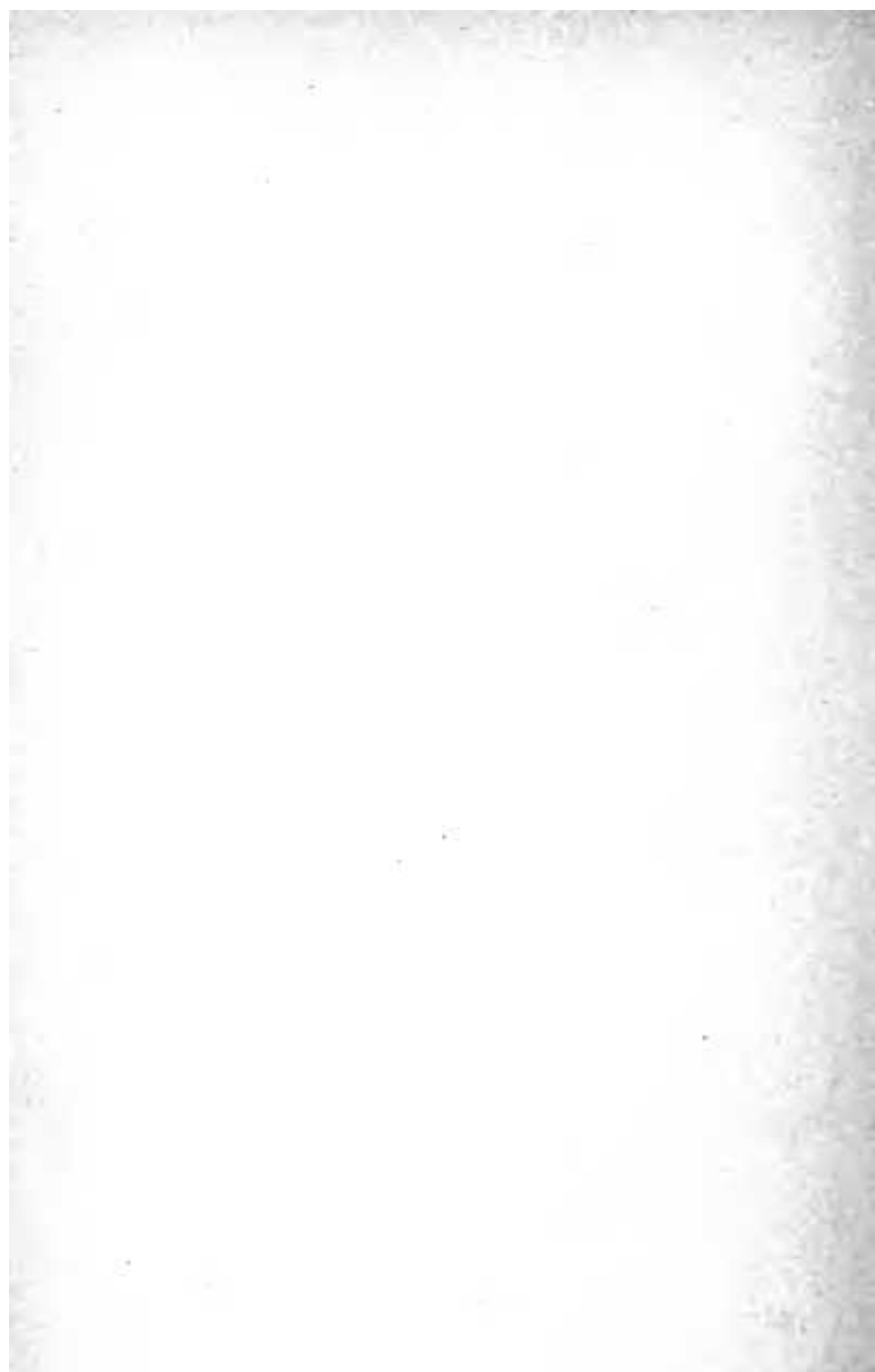
MAIN

To

THE MEMORY OF

DAVID, 8TH EARL OF AIRLIE

*Who, having devoted his life to his Queen and
to the Service, paid it out to the uttermost
at Diamond Hill, after the capture of
Pretoria, falling in the moment of Victory,
and at the head of his Regiment*



Preface

THIS little contribution to the story of the great war is directed to one end only. It seeks to make plain the part played by an arm, which has come to be considered in some quarters as of but secondary account in war.

A more able writer, with such experience and knowledge as it was my good fortune to acquire, would be able to show conclusively from the events here related that not only is cavalry wholly indispensable in every field of operation—singularly enough it was retained even within the lines of Ladysmith—but that in the successes of this great contest it has played the leading rôle.

But for misrepresentations on this score I would not have ventured to intrude my version

Preface

on an already satiated circle of readers, but a witness is necessary, and the unique experience I enjoyed of seeing practically the whole of the cavalry operations, and thereby the solution of the great war problem, calls me to tender my story.

These pages will reveal that round Colesberg was developed that method which in the end was to turn the tide of battle; that round Colesberg was made, a reputation that has not ceased to be one of terror and dismay to the opposing Boer forces; and that the forging of a weapon—the Cavalry Division—was there completed, which was to prove the means not only of laying open the road into Kimberley and into Bloemfontein, but even of effecting the change of circumstance which enabled the long delayed relief of Ladysmith.

Seeing, as I have seen, the operations on the western frontier as far as Bloemfontein, I cannot hesitate to state that, gallant as was the fighting spirit of our infantry, indomitable as was its marching mood, and cheerful as