

Army.

From every point of view the exercise proved a great success, and cannot fail to have afforded a great deal of valuable instruction. It is very much to be hoped that similar operations will follow both at home and abroad.

Various incidents in this mimic campaign are shown in the accompanying illustrations, which, as a rule, will readily be understood without any special descriptions.

The first of the series shows a temporary landing-pier formed of carts, along which planks have been laid for the men to walk upon to and from the boats. In another the sailors are dragging machine-guns from the landing-place in Mellieha Bay. In the background will be seen a flight of steps, suggesting the "cursed streets of stairs" which Lord Byron regarded as one of the many objections to the city of Valetta. With "sirocco, sun, and sweat" thrown in, these "streets of stairs" are sufficiently trying even to the most robust.

The long, winding road up the hill, with machine-guns to drag, must have tried the muscles of the gallant Tars, but it is needless to say that they persevered to the end. Sir G. Noel, on a Maltese pony, is shown going his rounds in the fourth illustration, and in the sixth Lord Congleton is riding, with his staff and a number of other officers, to the "conference" held at the conclusion of the operations. The final illustration, which shows a temporary halt of a portion of the Naval brigade, gives some idea of what the Maltese countryside is like. Upon the whole the glimpse here afforded is



THE INVADERS RE-EMBARKING.

unlikely to attract any great flood of emigrants. Malta certainly is wanting in attractions as a place of residence, but from the earliest times the geographical position of the island has given it immense value in the eyes of Mediterranean

Powers. There have been many "invasions" of Malta. The Phoenicians, Carthaginians, and Romans successively held Malta, as each in turn became paramount at sea. Subsequently it fell into the hands of the Vandals, the Arabs, and the Normans from Sicily. The Knights Hospitallers successfully defended the island against the Turks in 1551 and 1565, the invaders losing 30,000 men. Bonaparte seized Malta in 1798 when en route to Egypt,



MAJOR-GENERAL LORD CONGLETON AND STAFF.

but Admiral Pigot captured it in 1800, and by the peace of 1814 it became permanently recognised as a British possession.

The Cathedral of St. John, at Valetta, is a remarkable specimen of the Byzantine style. The interior decoration of this cathedral is very magnificent. The once famous "Silver Gates" of the Lady Chapel were, however, looted by Bonaparte and converted into francs, other sacrilegious depredations being committed at the same time. Over the high altar is a splendid piece of sculpture representing "The Baptism"; the figures of Our Lord and of St. John the Baptist being 7-ft. high, and hewn from a single block of marble—a wonderful piece of work. Malta is an interesting place, but when all the "sights" have been seen the visitor is glad to regain his ship and be off without delay.



THE NAVAL BRIGADE RESTING BY THE WAY