

Before we can come to the conclusion that the Garrison is a addition to Halifax society, and nearly everybody would be very sorry if it was removed.

From a business point of view there are different opinions. Many eminent business men say it is a good thing, and others say bad.

Having such a large number of men stationed here must help the business and must give employment to a large number of people and catering to their wants. The pay list must be large, and the great bulk is spent at once in the city. It seems that there must be therefore more money in circulation owing to the presence of the Garrison.

As we have seen, the people are accustomed to the Garrison. We have to go to do very young and have perhaps a fault and course, officer to cite

and the clerks

social people look at and spend money on but also on the money in and on



COL. RYAN, R. A.

ne by and ex-
asant. Then they have building of one kind and another going on most of the time; at MacNab's Island alone over two hundred men are employed and have been employed for some time at good wages, on the new forts. Of course a great deal of valuable property is taken up by the Imperial authorities, property that might be of great use to the city for many purposes. The Military spend a great deal of money in the city and the visitors spend a lot likewise, for many of our visitors are drawn here and are kept here by the presence of the Military.

There is another phase of social life in which the Military take great prominence, which is represented by Tommy Atkins and his girl.

A regiment is not here many days before one sees on the streets, and in the gardens, and elsewhere, a smiling slavey accompanied by a red coated friend. It has always been a mystery to me how these couples become acquainted; are they introduced by the regiment that is leaving or do they have a system of calling which is in force in a higher and sometimes more cultivated society? Which way it is, the fact remains that these couples do become acquainted. Is it good or bad for Halifax? I am afraid to say it is mostly bad.

The ordinary line Tommy Atkins of now-a-days is hardly in a position to marry; he is young, very young, and usually has no time to fall back upon. A great deal depends upon the regiment the district from which it is recruited. Then there is the

iniquitous system of marrying off the strength. I can't quite get at the bottom of this matter, but it seems to my mind to be one of the most terrible things connected in any way with the British service. How any clergyman can consent to marry a couple under these circumstances and carry out his Christian belief I fail to see. But I do not know enough of it to write much on it, but what I do know is quite enough to show that something ought to be done in the matter. Some soldiers leave the service and settle here and a great many of the better class of servants, coach-men, etc., are old soldiers, and good men they are too. I fancy there must be a great many old soldiers in Halifax, some of whom have done well and got on, others who have done badly and fallen.

We would miss much then if the Garrison was removed, we would miss the Military element that gives our city its peculiar and distinct characteristic. We would miss the Citadel, and I fancy our merchants would miss the excellent arrangements that are of such convenience. We would miss the familiar sight of a red-coat about the streets and the opportunity of hearing a good Military band on many occasions. We would miss the sight of the troops being reviewed on the common by the gallant old General surrounded by his glittering staff. We would miss a hundred and one things that enter into a daily life, perhaps that we hardly notice or think about. It would be like drawing the eye-tooth of Halifax to remove its Garrison. I for one would not care to live in it, till it had settled down again, it would be sad, very sad, to see it in a shorn state, all the glory would have gone out of it and the uniqueness of towns in Canada would have fallen to a very common level indeed. And even if in some ways the Garrison are a drawback and a hindrance to the town, what's the odds—they keep us "devilish amused."



COL. NOYES, R. A.

— FOR —
© JOB PRINTING ©
— CALL ON —
JAMES BOWES & SONS.