

men were under the disadvantage of firing in a mirage, an event which is not unusual in the moist atmosphere of the old country, but almost unknown here. Altogether there has been a dearth of news this year from Wimbledon and we are comparatively in ignorance of the achievements of our contingent. There is a rumor that Ashall gained a place in the sixty but we have not seen it confirmed. The Canadian cup which he won is a cup given by the Canada Company for the best aggregate made by a member of the Canadian twenty.

PERSONALS.

The Kingston *Daily News* of the 18th devotes a column to describing the return of Major Short, of "B" Battery, from the front. He has always been a smart soldier, and a favorite alike with his men and in society, but the exhibition of his personal bravery at Cut Knife Hill has made him, if possible, more popular than ever. The men of his battery made a rush for him, and carried him into barracks on their shoulders as soon as the train arrived, and later, dragged him and Mrs. Short to their home in his cart. A welcome given his charger, a serenade in the evening by the 14th P. W. O. Band, and an oyster supper concluded a sincere and hearty greeting to the hero of Cut Knife Hill.

Capt. Jeffrey H. Burland, 6th Batt. Fusiliers, of Montreal, sails for England this week on a two months' leave of absence. He will visit London, Paris and other cities on the continent. The gallant captain delayed taking his trip till there was no prospect of his battalion being required for service in the North-West.

THE WELCOME HOME OF THE FIELD FORCE.

The past week has been consecrated to receiving the homecoming troops, and all the superlatives in the dictionary have been brought out to describe the celebrations; rightly, too, for Canada has never been so deeply stirred, nor has she ever before so given way to enthusiasm. In Winnipeg the official celebration took place on the 17th, having been delayed a day by storm. The 90th—to whom Big Bear's sobriquet of "little black devils" seems likely to stick—paraded in the morning, and in the evening there was a grand procession and illumination. The *Free Press* thus describes the sight:—

"The street from one side to the other was one moving mass of people, and it was difficult to distinguish the procession. In fact it was all a procession and one that has never been equalled in this or any other city in the Dominion. The air was filled with music and yelling, and it was utterly impossible for one to hear himself speak. Cheer after cheer rent the air, and the echo was taken up by the crowd blocks away. The boy brigade carried tin horns, and their shrill blasts would almost waken the dead. Along Main street and up Portage avenue wound the great throng, cheering vociferously at every step. Along Kennedy street and down Broadway marched the ten thousand people, firing rockets and illuminating the heavens generally in their wake. At the corner of Main and Broadway the Queen's Own, 90th, Grenadiers, and Ottawa Sharpshooters fell in and marched with the procession down Main street. It was a wild sight. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed. From every quarter rockets were fired and from every quarter cheering was heard. No pen can picture the scene. The whole street was one blaze of fire."

A similar description, *mutatis mutandis*, would serve for the receptions at other battalion headquarters, such as Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec and Halifax.

The Queen's Own and Grenadiers reached Toronto on Thursday afternoon, debarking at North Toronto station. The scenes at meeting with the heroes of Batoche and Cut Knife Hill can be better imagined than described. Suffice it to say that the enthusiasm was unbounded—the cheering deafening, the greeting heartfelt and supremely honest. Toronto was beside herself in honoring her brave sons, and the thousands upon thousands testified in a never-to-be-forgotten manner their honest appreciation of the work so well and bravely done. Howard, of Gatling fame, was not forgotten and was deluged with bouquets, one having the word "Gatling" inscribed in its centre. Each man as he marched in his place through the dense throng of familiar faces must indeed have felt his "bosom swell with pride." The day will live in Toronto's history and in the memory of all who took part in the proceedings. The following effusion from the Toronto *Morning News*, while somewhat effervescent, tells how deep was the feeling and stirring the occasion:—

"The boys have come home.

"The happy time has come, the glorious day has come, the dreadful story of treason dark and gory did end in a sunburst of glory, and the boys are home.

"Wives and sweethearts flocked all around them, caressed them, and last night one hundred thousand voices prayed God to bless them, when the boys come home.

"Never since Creation has there been such a home-coming. There may have been times, in the history of older nations, when the decorations were gayer,

when the event was more costly, when a greater artificial stimulant was given the spontaneous outburst of public enthusiasm, when mercenary or political ends had a greater interest and a more controlling influence in the reception, but never, since the day when the walls of Jericho fell before the best appointed host that the world had yet seen; never since the time when Cæsar marshalled Roman legionaries on the plains of Italy; never when Carthaginian hosts overturned the traditions of the world's empire; never even when Lodi, and Montau, and Marengo, and Austerlitz, and Jena lent Napoleonic glory to French arms; never when Vimiero, and Badajoz, and Ciudad Rodrigo, and Salamanca, and even Waterloo clothed with the garment of fame the magnificent soldiery of the British Isles; never when victory perched on the banners of Von Moltke, and Unser Fritz, and the Red Prince, and Steinmetz, and Baron Von Manteuffel, and made the names of Sedan and Gravelotte, and Paris sacred in the eyes of Germans; never even when one million three hundred thousand brave Americans marched through the streets of Washington, celebrating the grand climax at Appomatox has there been a more genuine, hearty, overflowing, enthusiastic, heart-felt, grand, glorious and uproarious exposition of the feelings of a grateful people than yesterday identified itself with the history of Toronto."

The Ottawa sharpshooters reached home on Friday evening, and were met at the Union station by all the troops in the city, the Mayor and corporation, and by most of the incorporated societies. The streets were profusely decorated, perhaps not so much in their honor as in honor of the victorious expedition from which they were returning, and on their way to the drill hall the streets were thronged by a cheering multitude. Several addresses and a banner were presented to them, and it was late before they were allowed to disperse to their homes. The Minister of Militia in an eloquent speech referred not only to the local corps but to the whole force. Speaking as a private citizen and as a Canadian who loved Canada above everything else, he felt proud to be able to give an opinion which he did not believe to be an exaggerated one, of what their deeds had done for Canada. He had but the other day received a letter from a gentleman of high standing in England, and in that communication the writer congratulated Canada on having so expeditiously and so energetically put down a wicked and groundless rebellion, and expressed the belief that the manner in which it was accomplished had done more for Canada than any other means that could be employed to make the Dominion respected and honored abroad. He asked if the press of foreign countries had not given Canadian soldiers credit for their bravery and intrepidity. Had not the leading papers on the other side of the imaginary line which divides us from a friendly nation to the south of us, in the most exhaustive articles on the rebellion, shown that Canada had risen greatly in the estimation of our neighbors? So it was everywhere. Our soldiers by the difficult marches, by their bravery and by their enthusiasm had won the plaudits of the world, and drawn attention to our country. It was due to the pluck of our Canadian army that the rebellion was crushed out in so short a space of time. Just as in forming the Sharpshooters, the men were taken from all the various corps in the city, so in calling out the troops all the different provinces were asked to send their quota. Referring to the regiments who did not take part in any of the fights, he said he was sure that they would not and should not be shorn of the honor that was due them. It was necessary that regiments should be had to garrison important points and to prevent any movements on the part of the rebels to cut off communications with those who were out. He felt therefore that he should give credit to those who did not have an opportunity to do any fighting, for the manner in which they had performed their all important duties. Had their destiny been before the enemy they too would have undoubtedly given an excellent account of themselves.

The 65th reached Montreal on Monday morning, the 20th, being the first corps home. Their reception was similar to all the others, with this addition, that they marched straight to their parish church, where a "Te Deum" was sung. The Garrison artillery reached Montreal on Friday afternoon and received a greeting quite as warm. Both corps met on the exhibition grounds on Saturday, where they received an official banquet from the city.

The 9th Voltigeurs landed in Quebec on Tuesday, the Halifax battalion reached home on Friday, and the 7th on Saturday, being the last corps to return. All these corps have, as will be seen by general orders, been relieved from active service.

Besides the receptions at their own homes, the battalions received many attentions *en route*, all showing the feeling of admiration with which their conduct at the front had inspired their fellow citizens.

The Midlanders' return was necessarily marked by an element of sadness in their having to perform the last sad rites over the grave of their departed and much beloved and honored leader, nevertheless each centre that had contributed its quota to the fine battalion gave its representatives an enthusiastic welcome and in the same style of warm hearted approbation as was observed in the larger cities. Altogether, Canada has been deeply stirred from ocean to ocean, a wave of popular enthusiasm has swept over the land having a deeper meaning than is apparent to the superficial observer who only sees a welcome to the volunteers.