

MAJOR GENERAL STISTED, C.B., who, during his stay in Canada, has won the esteem and confidence of all classes, but more especially of the Volunteers, addressed the Force, assembled on the Queen's Birth Day at Toronto, in the following words.

"Officers and men of the Volunteer Force—This is probably the last time I will have the honor to see you on parade, and I do not think it is right to allow you to go without offering you my sincere thanks for the very creditable manner in which you have always turned out. Your soldierly behavior and your steadiness on parade, reflects the greatest credit not only on yourselves and the officers, but also on the Government that has given you every facility to perfect yourselves in drill by engaging drill instructors, building drill-sheds and the appointment of officers for your instruction. I am sure I would be very glad to take a regiment home to England with me to show what Canadian Volunteers can do. If this opportunity was offered me I have no doubt and I say it without flattery, that if you would not excel the volunteers of the parent country, you would in every respect compare well with them. I am sure, also, you can hold your own with them in all that constitutes the requisites of a soldier. I am going to leave you and for a country far away, but will leave you with a general officer who is not only well known in England and Canada, but also throughout the world. Sir Charles Wyndham remains here and you may depend upon it wherever you go he will be with you. The only thing to fear is that he will lose his life in his anxiety; but I hope that in leaving him with you, you will not allow him to do so. I now wish you a long farewell, and trust that ever may the British flag wave and float over the cities and citadels of this fair Canada."

Departing from Canada General Stisted bears with him to his new field of labour the lasting affection and esteem of the Volunteers of Canada.

Our Guelph correspondent informs us that No. 6 Company, Eramosa Rifles, intend sending a squad of five to compete at the Ontario Association Meeting in Toronto on the 22nd inst., and also that the officers of the 30th Battalion are making arrangements for having their corps represented at the same matches.

The Frontier Rifle Association's Prize Meeting is announced to take place near the Village of Hemmingsford, Ont., on the 22nd of June and following days. There are seven matches in all and the affair appears likely to be very successful.

REVIEWS, &c.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE for May, republished by the Leonard Scott Company of New York. It is an excellent number, the poem by George Elliot "How Lisa loved the King" is beautifully rendered. Cornhus O'Dowd is piquant as ever; the papers on Lord Lawrence graphic and faithful, altogether "old Maga" is fully up to the high position it has always occupied in English magazine literature.

[From the N. Y. *Imperialist*.]

A FREE EMPIRE.

Some of our most thoughtful and considerate contemporaries complain that the *Imperialist*, while pointing to a strong central government as the only cure for the troubles of the nation, does so in vague and general terms, without explaining fully what we propose. The complaint is in part just, but only in part.

It is difficult, in the outset of a discussion involving such vast, varied and complicated interests, to determine its limits or declare its results. We have, in short, no "cut and dried" Utopia to offer or describe, and prefer to deal simply with great central ideas. We regard the cause of good government in Europe as progressing favorably, but not only the origin and past history of the existing Empires of the Old World, but their present condition are such as to preclude us from referring to any of them, except as to particular features, for examples of the successful working of our principles. Like our own nation, they are to heavily encumbered with the wrecks and rubbish of the past, and like them we shall find our own development the slow and painful result of thought and labor. The business to which the *Imperialist* has set itself is the pure and patriotic purpose of calling the thoughtful men of the Western Empire to the careful discussion which alone can prepare the way as to render sudden and disastrous convulsions unnecessary.

As a sort of starting point for such a discussion we present a few plain propositions.

Our Government is not now what our fathers intended, nor what the present generation would have it.

It has ceased to be in any true sense a Republic. It is a "caucus government," as distinguished from an autocracy, a limited monarchy, or the representative form which intended to establish.

We have lost individual freedom and self-government, without securing the strength which is our due in the councils of the world or obtaining a pure and vigorous administration of our home affairs.

Our people are no longer fitted for self-government—they themselves fully recognizing the fact—and have not only voluntarily surrendered that prerogative, but have ceased to educate themselves therefor.

The venality and corruption in every department of public administration, the extravagance, oppression and lawlessness, have reached a point that is unendurable, while nothing in our present system offers us any hope for the future.

The character of our population is yearly growing worse, with a prospect of receiving from Asia greater evils than we have so industriously imported from Europe. Such a people cannot, in a true sense, be "represented" by men selected under the caucus method.

Thus far we have little fear of any contradiction from thinking and observing men; but we must go further.

The idea of Empire does not necessarily imply tyranny, caste distinctions,—other than the recognition of individual merit and such inheritance thereof as now exists and is inevitable—nor does it require the abandonment by the people of all such control of their own local affairs as they are competent and willing to exercise.

We care very little for names, for a comparison of our condition with that of other

peoples too clearly shows us their want of value.

We desire the establishment of a central government which will be strong enough to hold this continent together, and steadily adjust the now jarring interests of the different sections and races. Such a government should have supreme control of our foreign relations and of all administration not purely local and municipal.

The determination of the limits of its power and the methods of its action must be left for future deliberation but it is an important theme for present discussion.

We deem it certain that under such a government we should secure a more substantial and beneficial representation of all classes and all interests than is possible under the present caucus system.

The rights of minorities would be more secure, and fundamental laws would be shielded from assault by the interests of the governing power itself.

The individual character of the ruler for the time being is of far less importance than the nature of the institutions of which he would form but the head and representative. If the Emperor—in case he should be so named—happened to be a weak or a bad man, he would be far less powerful for evil than a vicious President or a turbulent and venal Congress, nor could he by any means escape a perpetual responsibility to the people. His realm would be too vast for the exercise of the minute oppressions which we now groan under, and his reign might be truly said to continue "during good behavior."

Among the benefits of such a form of government we believe we should secure a pure judiciary; a simplification and reduction of taxation; an economical administration of the entire civil service; a more extended and judicious system of internal improvements, and an accelerated national growth and development, with a careful protection of the national honor, at home and abroad. In return for these and many more advantages we should surrender nothing but the Yankee boy's traditional chance of becoming President, and the insane delusions that we govern ourselves and live in a Republic.

From years of careful observation, combined with large experience in the administration of public affairs, we have arrived at the definite conclusion that our country is steadily and surely advancing toward a point where the continuance of the existing frauds will become no longer possible, and an Empire, in some shape, inevitable. To our minds this proposition hardly admits of argument, so clearly manifest are the signs of the times.

It is our aim, therefore, in the work to which we are devoting so much time and money, and in which we are running such risks of personal obloquy, if not of mob violence, to begin a course of agitation which shall accustom our fellow-citizens to look the truth in the face and to make such wise preparations for the coming change as shall cause it to be gradual, peaceful, and unaccompanied by convulsion.

We see before us still, in spite of the fearful evils which grow so riotously from the rank corruption of the day, the possibility of the creation of the most perfect and durable government which the world has yet seen—one whose freedom would prevent us from envying the days of Washington, and whose duration might yet throw into the shade the gathered years of China. Centuries will be required for the assimilation of the conglomerate population of this continent and the adjustment of its vast and varied interests and for that development those centuries