

THE HUMBLEST COT.

It was a little cottage I ome,
Beside a little wood,
No turret high, no shining dome
Above its thatch'd roof stood:
Yet 'twas a place
Where love's pure grace
Poured forth its healing flood.

Through all the darkest storms of life,
Through sunshine and through shade,
Apart from mad ambition's strife
It beat its thrush-like note;
It was the seat
Of pleasures sweet,
Of joys with peace inlaid.

No rustling sails there were heard,
No silken soft footfalls;
No costly painting ever stirred
With life its spotless walls;
Yet beauty's own
Light ever shone
Within its humble halls.

The hearts that beat beneath its roof
To virtue e'er were true;
From wrong and shame they kept aloof,
And shunned temptation, too,
They clung to right
In his full light,
And kept heaven's hope in view.

It was the shrine of pure content,
A haven sure of rest;
And not beneath heaven's firmament
Stood cot more sweetly blest;
For wrong or sin
Ne'er entered in
That place a welcome guest.

Oh, rich ones of the earth, think not
That wealth alone can buy
True joy for oft in humblest cot—
The humblest 'neath the sky—
Are comforts found
Which ne'er abound
In mansions proud and high.

The Canadian Military College.

It has been truly said that "men should travel abroad to hear news of home"—and this has been strikingly exemplified in the following article on the Canadian Military College from the *Saturday Review*, in which there is at least one reservation that can be found fault with. It is that the officers of our organization have deteriorated since the withdrawal of the Imperial troops, and as a consequence the necessity arises "for placing her (our) military organization on a sounder foundation."

It is not a fact in the first place that our officers have deteriorated, and this ought to be well known by this time in England and to the authorities of the regular army from the yearly "reports on the State of the Militia"—the speeches of our Commander-in-Chief, an officer high in rank in the regular army, and the fact that no officer can obtain a commission unless he is professionally and legally qualified. It is well known that owing to our social condition the only difficulty we have is to secure good and efficient non-commissioned officers; a difficulty common, also to the regular service from totally different causes, but obviated in ours by their duties, as far as tactical instructions is concerned, being ably discharged by our subalterns, and, as a consequence, rank for rank they are as efficient, at least, as the corresponding grades of the regular army.

While that force remained in Canada we were always sure of having an old soldier or two in every battalion as drill instructors and then our officers were not as efficient as

they have since become, but at present no Staff College or any organization connected therewith could increase their efficiency in ordinary tactical instruction or regimental administration. It is understood that the institution which the *Saturday Review* so kindly notices, is to be organized for the purpose of supplying an educated Staff and the necessary scientific arms of our service with trained officers, and not to form a pretext for revolutionizing a perfect organization by attempting the impossible task of putting it on a "sounder foundation". The idea embodied is one common to every Commander-in-Chief with one exception we have had since our force was organized—and is based on the erroneous assumption that the social conditions on which our organization is based and those of Great Britain are similar, and that of necessity no military organization can by any possibility exist in an efficient state except it is an exact transcript of the regular army.

Now it is simply impossible to establish anything like, except in discipline, a regular army similar to the British army in Canada, for we have no surplus population to recruit its ranks from—we cannot afford its cost—our political or social relations does not require its presence—and it would afford no substitute in any aspect for the force our present organization could put under arms at a few hours notice.

It is only fair to friendly critics like the *Saturday Review* that the whole truth of this case should reach them and that they should not be imposed on by the dreams of theorists.

"There are few questions more important in the present unsettled condition of the political relations between the nations of the world than those which have reference to the application of the means of defence which the Empire of Great Britain possesses, but which as yet have not been fully developed. As space becomes diminished by rapidity of communication, and as time is virtually annihilated by the telegraph, several portions of the Empire approach each other more closely, and their powers of self-protection should, in place of being regarded separately, form parts of a grand scheme of national defence. As yet the great colonies content with the material progress they are yearly making, and relying on the armed strength of the Mother Country, have done little for their own protection, still less for the defensive power of the Empire; but signs are not wanting that some of them at least are awakening to a due appreciation of their responsibilities, and are taking steps to supply their deficiencies in this important respect. The scheme for the establishment in Canada of a military school with the view of educating as officers of the home force the youth of the country who show an inclination for the profession of arms has been already matured, and only awaits the appointment of an officer of the English army as superintendent to begin its work. The Canadian Government has done all in its power to place the establishment on a proper footing, and is entitled to look for cordial encouragement and assistance from the Imperial Government, as well as for the support which

the public opinion of England ought to afford.

"As long as Canada was garrisoned by the Imperial forces, and whilst regiments and batteries stationed at the principal towns throughout the country were available for the instruction of the officers of the militia, there was little need of other means of military education; but when the troops were suddenly withdrawn, and the country was left to its own resources without any care having been evinced by the Imperial Government of the day to provide for the want which the departure of the regular forces had left totally unsupplied, the Canadians were forced to improvise on a very small scale some method of training officers for their active militia. The drill instructions organized at the head quarters of the several regiments was still continued, as far as was possible, under the supervision of the militia staff, and two schools of gunnery formed at Quebec and Kingston under Imperial officers provided for the education of a few officers and non-commissioned officers of the Canadian artillery. These gunnery schools have done their work well, and have preserved the type of the regular troops, the memory of whom is now even fading away; but the ordinary militia training establishments have gradually, owing to unavoidable causes arising from the absence of any permanent regular force, deteriorated, and are productive of little benefit; consequently it has become evident to all who believe in the future development of Canada that some steps ought to be taken for placing her military organization on a sounder foundation. Men and arms are to be found, but unless Canada is prepared to depend on England for officers, few, owing to absence of instruction, would be available if, after the lapse of a few years, war were to break out. Now no country beyond the staged childhood would be content to resign all its higher appointments in her army to another Power, however intimately connected with her; the pressure of public opinion would not permit such an acknowledgment of weakness; and therefore the Prime Minister of the day (Mr. Mackenzie), looking forward to future needs, determined on his accession to office to establish, on a plan somewhat similar to the Military Academy at West Point, a school of instruction for Canadian officers. Colonel Fletcher, the late Military Secretary to the Governor General, was sent to make a report on the United States Military Academy, and Kingston was selected as the place which on the whole promised the best site for the college. Many persons who have visited Canada, or who have been quartered there will recollect the massive and oddly-shaped stone building on the borders of Ontario Lake, below the crest of the hill crowned by Fort Henry, called the Stone Frigate, and built on the model of a vessel of war. This edifice, the result of a legacy left to the Government on condition that a frigate should be built for service on Lake Ontario—which condition, owing to a subsequent treaty with the United States, could not be fulfilled—was constructed in the terms of the will, in the form, as far as the interior was concerned, of a ship of war, and was used as a barracks for soldiers. More recently it has served as a depot for militia stores, and it has now been determined to convert it into a residence and classroom for about forty cadets, whom to be the first pupils of the Canadian Military College. A suitable residence for the superintendent is in course of preparation, and the organization of the system awaits his arrival. The Canadian Govern-