

Artillery was invaded on Friday evening 15th, but the invasion was a friendly one. The quarters had been turned over for the nonce to A Company, Royal Scots, for them to hold their annual ball and supper there. The event was a successful one in every way. Among the 60 couples present were Lt. Col. Strathy, Lt. Col. Caverhill, Lt. Col. Hood, Majors Ibbotson and Gault; Messrs. Robert W. Allan, Robt. Walker, Captain Rankin and Lt. Cameron as guests of the company. The dancing was opened with the march, led by the Pipe Major Matheson, Pipe Sgt. Clarke and Pipers McInnes, Brophy and MacRae. The decorations, both in the ballroom and the armory down stairs, the latter of which was used as the supper room, were very fine. Supper was served under the catership of J. W. Sutherland, and it reflected great credit on Armory Sgt. Johnson, M.A., and Armory Sgt. Brown, of the Scots. The event of the evening was during supper, when Col. Sgt. Currie, who was in the chair, called upon, at the request of the vice chairman, Corp. Gardner, Lt. Col. Strathy, to present to Pte. D. Smith, on behalf of the company, an elegant set of furs for Mrs. Smith, as a mark of their appreciation for his services in the past as secretary of the Kilt fund, and also for the manner in which he had always upheld the honor of the regiment, both on and off the shooting field. After supper dancing was resumed, and was kept up until the next day was well advanced.

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"Cartridge Box," the Gazette's military writer, says: "As soon as the new year comes in the Montreal Garrison Artillery will be completely reorganized. Instead of six small companies, it will be reorganized into three large ones, with a total strength of 21 officers and 308 non-commissioned officers and men. This change has been authorized by the department, but the announcement will not be made in the Official Gazette until the new establishment has been sanctioned by Parliament. There is, however, little or no doubt but this will be done, as all the other Garrison Artillery corps have been reorganized in the same manner. Another thing our local artillerists will be glad to hear, is that a 64-pounder converted gun, with sights and carriages complete, has been ordered from Quebec for the M.G.A., and will soon be at their disposal for drill purposes. This reorganization should be of great benefit to the corps, as it has been felt for some time that the old methods were too antiquated. The details of the new system have not yet been decided, but something about the question will come up to-night, at the meeting of the association, in their armory."

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It has been the usual thing in years past for the Victoria Rifles' Reserves, better known as the Vets, to celebrate the birthday of their old regiment, December 13th, by a dinner. This year was the thirty-second anniversary, and as it fell on Sunday, the Vets, at their annual meeting, decided to celebrate it the night before. When this decision was made

Lt. Col. Starke and his commissibned and non-commissioned officers had also made up their minds that the regiment itself should also do a little celebrating to keep the name of the regiment and the date green in the memory of all. The result was that after a short conference it was decided, for the first time, that the two bodies should dine together. The dinner came off on Saturday evening, 16th, at the Vics' armory, Cathcart street, and it was a success in every way. Around the handsomely decorated tables, on which were a profusion of potted plants, cups and trophies, the latter spoils of the Vics' team on the shooting field, could be seen many of Montreal's leaders in commercial and social life. They were in multi, but on their breasts was the little silver baegd and ribbon which told to all that they had carried the rifle and the sword in the days of yore, and that they were the Vets of the Vics. Of the soldiers of to-day there was a goodly and representative gathering, every branch of the service being represented, and among others, commanding officers from Ottawa, Toronto, and New Brunswick. The tables were arranged so that all the diners could see all that was going on and hear all the songs and speeches. The chairman's table ran across the head of the room, and from this ran three others, the length of the armory towards the stage, which was warlike in its appearance, with the Maxim gun of the regiment facing the door and bidding defiance to any who would disturb the peace of her whose name the regiment bears. Lt. Col. Starke was in the chair, and immediately facing him, at the head of the centre table, was the latest gift to the volunteers of Montreal, a handsome shield mounted on a tripod. The shield bears on its face over a dozen war medals. It was given by Mr. Henry Tiffin to the volunteers of Montreal on Friday, and was given in care of the Vics' Reserves. On Lt. Col. Starke's right sat Lt. Col. Houghton, deputy adjutant general; Lt. Col. Hamilton, Queen's Own Rifles, Toronto; Lt. Col. Butler, Prince of Wales Rifles; Lt. Col. Gray, superintendent of stores, 5th district; Lt. Col. Cole, Montreal Garrison Artillery; Lt. Col. Burland, 6th Fusiliers; Major Roy, brigade major, 5th district; Capt. Frennette, superintendent of stores, 6th district. On his left were Lt. Col. Henshaw, president of the Reserves; Lt. Col. White, Eight Royal Rifles, Quebec; Lt. Col. Strathy, Royal Scots; Mr. Frank Walker, donor of the Walker cup; Lt. Col. Whitehead, V. R.; Mr. George Gillespie, Lt. Wardlaw, V.R.; Surgeon Campbell, Vics. At the centre table Captain Stanley, president of the Vics' Reserve mess, presided, and around the table were Mr. J. W. Mills, "father" of the Reserves and hon. president; Lt. A. L. Dunlop, V. R.; R. Pinkerton, V. R.; Captain Sully, V. R.; Captain Sutherland, V. R.; John Nelson, jr., V. R.; A. MacKeand, V. R.; M. P. Cochrane, V.R.; Lt. Col. Massey, V.R.; Major Seath, 6th Fusiliers; Sgt. G. D. Taylor, V.R.; Major Radiger, V.R.; Lt. Col. Ferguson, 73rd regiment, New Brunswick; A. R. Fraser, V. R.; Capt. J. A. Villeneuve, R.L.; T. Trig-

gett, V.R.; F. Spence, V.R.; Charles W. Lewis, V.R.; Capt. R. A. Kellond, V.R.; J. D. Taylor, V.R.; Lt. C. A. E. Patterson, V.R.; ex-Sgt. Major Sims, V.R. At the right hand table Major Sims presided, and those seated there were A. B. Evans, E.A. Bernard, George Caverhill, Major Busted, Vics; Major Blaiklock, Royal Scots; Capt. Macpherson, R.L.; V.R.; Capt. S. Howard, V.R.; G. L. Cains, V.R.; G. L. Kilpin, Capt. Guy, Vics; Capt. and Adjutant Arthur Hamilton, Vics; Lt. F. S. Meighon, Royal Scots; Capt. Leslie, Vics; Lt. R. Costigan, Montreal Field Battery; Capt. Rodden, Vics; Lt. McCallum, Vics; Lt. E.H. Brown, Vics, and Arthur Ware, V. R. At the left hand table Sgt. Major Gorman presided, and around him were the following non-coms. of the regiment; but later in the evening they had as their special guests the members of the Ottawa Bowling team, whom they have often met on the alley. The sergeants present were Davis, E. Belcourt, Phillips, Allan, McRobie, McKerrow, Napier, Binmore, Gascoigne, Burton, James, Warrington, Shaw, McClatchie, Simpson, Gagnon, Remington, Hutchison, McCrae and Lanigan.

The toast of the evening, "The Guests," was then proposed by Lt. Col. Starke. After thanking them for being present, he alluded to the staff at Montreal, which, he said, at all times was willing to do all in its power to aid the commanding officers of the city corps. He referred to the presence of the officers of sister corps, especially those outside the city, and the representative of the Queen's Own in particular, for whom the Vics had always had the friendliest feeling.

Lt. Col. Houghton, in reply, thanked those present for the hearty manner in which the toast had been drunk, and said that the Vics and the Queen's Own were the principal corps in Canada, as they both bore the name of Her Majesty, and he was glad to say that they had always upheld it with honor and with pride. He was glad to see the friendly rivalry there was between them, as it helped both corps towards the highest state of efficiency.

Lt. Cols. Cole, Burland and Strathy also replied to the toast.

Lt. Col. Henshaw said he did not rise as a guest, but as a representative of the Reserves, and he did so to announce that speeches were in order, as the Reserves had always had them at their dinners and gatherings. Although it was against the rules to have them at a purely regimental dinner, still the Reserves did not feel, and he was sure the rest were the same way, that they should be cut out of listening to the many fine speakers who were around the tables.

Lt. Col. Starke then rose and said that as long as the Vets took the responsibility speeches would go on. He called Lt. Col. Hamilton to his feet, who, after returning thanks for giving him the pleasure of being present, said it was the first dinner of the Vics he had ever attended. Both his regiment and the Vics wore the same uniform, and when a Queen's Own man met a Vics he knew he met a brother. He referred to the visits of the Vics to Toronto, and to the Queen's Own to Montreal in 1878 and 1879, when they were