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Lieut.-Col. Hon. J. M. Gibson.

The announcement of Lieut.-Col. Gibson's retirement from the active command of the Thirteenth Battalion will be received with regret by military men throughout the Dominion, and especially so by the members of the corps with which he has been connected for many years. On the other hand, there will be a general feeling of gratification that in recognition of his long and valuable service he is to be allowed to retire retaining rank, which, while relieving him from the work involved in the active command of an important city corps like the Thirteenth, will render his counsel and service still available in connection with the militia.

It is now 35 years since Colonel Gibson's military career began. His initial experience was acquired in this city in the year 1860, when he joined the University company at the time of the Trent affair, and he took part in the first drill of the Queen's Own Rifles at the Normal School grounds. The late Prof. Croft was then Captain of the University company, and it was under his direction that Private Gibson fired his first shot on the old range in Bloor street ravine. In June, 1863, he graduated, and, moving to Hamilton, joined No. 1 Company of the Thirteenth Battalion. With that battalion he has since continuously been connected, serving in all ranks up to that of Lieut.-Colonel. In 1865 he took a course at the military school then at Hamilton, where he received second and first class certificates. During the Fenian raid in

1866 he was present at Ridgeway as a member of the leading company of the Thirteenth. Formerly, when the city corps went under canvas for annual drill,

well for the command of Col. Gibson that in two out of the four competitions which have taken place the Thirteenth has won the coveted trophy against other city battalions.

As a rifleman Col. Gibson's reputation is second to no officer's in the wide Dominion. It took several years of hard practice to bring him to the front, and it was not till 1873 that he began to gain distinction in this direction. He was a member of the Wimbledon teams in 1874, 1875 and 1879, on all three occasions winning prizes, but he was especially successful in the latter year, when he won the Prince of Wales' Prize, with a score of 94, which was the highest score ever made at Wimbledon with the Snider rifle in a Queen's range match. The same year he tried for the Olympic Prize, offered for the Snider championship but was ruled out on a technical objection of appearing too late at the firing point. In 1881 Col. Gibson commanded the Canadian team at Wimbledon, and is one of the few officers whose team have brought the Kolapore Cup to the Dominion.

Col Gibson has been President of the Vic-

toria Rifle Club of Hamilton, which was formed over 30 years ago, one of the oldest organizations of the kind in the country, and has done much to promote skilled marksmanship in the Ambitious City. Among other positions he has filled are those of President of the Ontario Rifle Association, which he occupied for three years; of the Dominion Military Rifle League, which position he also held for three years; President of the Domi-



LIEUT.-COL. HON. J. M. GIBSON.

he was frequently out with the Thirteenth at Thorold, Grimsby and Niagara. For four or five years past he has been a prominent figure in the High Park autumn manoeuvres of city corps, in connection with which he generally led either the attacking or defending force. These occasions have in recent years wound up the season's work, upon the result of which has been awarded the Gzowski Cup for general efficiency, and it speaks