

# WITH THE INFANTRY IN SOUTH AFRICA.\*

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Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—In endeavouring to give you a lecture on the somewhat comprehensive subject which has been suggested to me for my remarks to-night, I fear that I have undertaken a task that I will be far from able to perform satisfactorily, either to you, or myself, and, further, I know that I have tackled a subject that I can scarcely do justice to in the brief course of one evening's talk. If I be able to hold your attention for one hour on the subject myself, I hope to raise points for consideration which will so draw out the ideas and counter ideas of those present that the discussion which follows the lecture may prove of much more interest to you than the lecture itself, as it certainly will be to me.

Before proceeding to relate incidents and scenes more directly connected with the subject of "With the Infantry in South Africa," I desire to make a few remarks upon the impressions that have been forced upon me by my experience in that campaign, as they also were, though less forcibly for many reasons, in the Canada North West Campaign of 1885, and the first and greatest is this:

## THE NECESSITY FOR PREPARATION.

I need not go into any account of the enormous waste of money, and the unnecessary loss of valuable lives, caused by the absolute lack of proper preparation to all branches of our military service and its concomitant requirements when that little unpleasantness suddenly broke out in March, 1885, in our own North West. That is long past and gone, but the lesson of "necessity for preparation" was not learned from our experience at that time.

It was plain to any observer of passing events that the day would again come when Canadians would be suddenly called upon to take up arms at some time, and to fight somewhere, on behalf of the Empire, if not in defence of our own firesides.

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