

instruction is certainly commendable. If we have a militia at all, let it be efficient. Under General Hutton's command the reforms of which I have spoken will no doubt be introduced.

In closing I should like to remark upon a most prevalent and equally erroneous idea with regard to our volunteers. We are often told that in occasion of active service our volunteers, or the majority of them, would find themselves in some way unfit for service and if they did get to the front they would quickly show their heels when the bullets commenced to fly. I believe this is the most cowardly and pernicious doctrine that could possibly be employed to demoralize us as a nation. It not only brings the militia into disrepute and thus tends to lower its efficiency; but it is a lie against the courage and manhood of Canada to thus rate ourselves below others in this respect. So far as I have had opportunity to judge, there is no company in the world that I should rather have at my back in a bayonet charge than my own. It is our duty to show that appreciation of our volunteers that will stimulate them to do the best that is in them.

C. J. MERSEREAU, Capt.
73rd Batt.

The Mayflower.

BY BRADFORD K. DANIELS, ACADIA '94.

When the heart of the waking earth
Quickens the pulse of Spring,
And beauty dreams of birth
In many a sleeping thing;
Then the shy arbutus flower
Wakes from a bed of gloom,
And Spring's most perfect dower
Opens its dreams of bloom.

Thou hint of a spring eternal
On some far, undreamt-of shore,
Where the airs are ever vernal
And the snows return no more,
Breathe into my life thy sweetness
That mystical charm of thine,
Which lends thy being completeness
And makes thy beauty divine.

—From "*The Canadian Magazine*."