

The 93rd "Cumberland" Battalion, Lt. Col. Harrison; Major Black, 21 officers, 219 non-commissioned officers and men.

Total, exclusive of Brigade Staff, 83 officers, 210 non-commissioned officers and men, and 56 horses, including 5 belonging to the staff. The Brigade Staff consisted of Lt. Col. Worsley, D.A.G., in command; Lt. Col. Macshane, Brigade Major; Lt. Col. Starratt, (69th,) Asst. Brig. Major; Lt. Col. Murray, Dist. Paymaster; Major Irving, (B. M., P. E. Island,) Brigade Musketry Instructor; Capt. Corbin (63rd Rifles,) Asst. do. do.; Lt. Fraser, (Picton Field Battery,) Supply Officer; Lt. Bent, (63rd Rifles) Brigade Quarter-Master; Dr. Borden, M.P., (68th), Principal Medical Officer.

The Troops had been a week in camp when I arrived there, on the 13th. It was my first visit to the locality, and I was particularly struck with the wonderful adaptability of the ground to camp purposes. I may, in fact, safely say that I never saw so perfect a camp ground. It is of very large extent, nearly a mile in length, the railway runs along its southern boundary, and a temporary station, during camp time, lands troops or visitors on the centre of the line. Three pumps, equidistant along the line, a few yards from the railway, furnish with perfect convenience, an unailing supply of the purest water. The soil, largely covered with heather, is so dry that no inconvenience or disagreeableness is experienced a quarter of an hour after the heaviest rain. The Rifle Range, across the Railway, is almost as good as could be wished, and the surrounding scenery is agreeable to the eye.

The weather, with the exception of one day during the first week, had been quite favorable, and remained so during my stay, raining only once during the night. Divine Service had been performed on Sunday by a venerable clergyman of the Episcopal church, who has always taken the liveliest interest in the annual assemblies of our citizen soldiery, and a good collection taken up.

Well worthy indeed is that soldiery all over Canada of the respect and sympathy of their fellow-citizens. It has been my fortune to see many camps for the last quarter of a century, in all parts, from Nova Scotia to Vancouver's Island, and never, in all my experience, have I seen the character of the Canadian Militia better sustained than by the perfect order and propriety which distinguished the camp just taken up.

It goes without saying that every Militiaman, officer or private, only serves his country at the cost of personal inconvenience and expense, sometimes very considerable, and, taking all the circumstances of volunteering into consideration, it is beyond measure disgraceful that a Halifax contractor should be found to supply a large camp with bread almost absolutely uneatable by reason of its filth. When such a villainous piece of rascality is perpetrated, the result is, that if the supply which arrives on the ground is condemned, you have ten or eleven hundred men at once without bread to eat, and, if once passed, the shameful imposition has to be endured. It will, however, be found a dangerous trick for any future scoundrel to repeat. With this exception, everything seemed to have gone well. The camp bore the impress of a commander who knew his work, and insisted on having it properly done, and of a most earnest and indefatigable staff. I never saw a camp in which duty was carried on with less superfluous bugling, shouting out of orders, noise, or confusion, and its order, cleanliness, and regularity were conspicuous. Its extreme neatness was no doubt partly due to the absence of straw in the tents. Nothing is more abundantly productive of dirt and untidiness, and the Militia Force of Nova Scotia owes Col. Worsley a debt of gratitude for resolutely setting his face against it.

Much progress seemed to have been made in drill by the time I arrived, and any efficiency apparent after a week in harness means more than appears on the surface. For one result of the parsimony of Parliament, which compels the Minister of Militia to authorize drill for each corps every alternate year only, is that, of course, a commanding officer has to fill up his ranks with about twice as many recruits after intervals of two years, as he would each year, if the drill were annual. When, therefore, a corps marches into camp, probably one half raw recruits, the marvel is, not that things are not better done, but that so much is satisfactorily accomplished by the spirit and intelligence of the men, in the insufficient space of time available.

But in many directions recent years have brought improvement. It was often, formerly, too much the habit to regard a camp as a huge picnic, and to go into it without a thought of duty that could be shirked, or responsibility that could be made light of. All this is very much changed for the better. Work is earnest, duty is respected, and it is beginning to be found out that dissipation, or looseness of conduct on duty on the part of either officer or man, is no more tolerated than in the army, and it detected entails unhesitating arrest, and prompt representation to headquarters for dismissal.

The effect of the schools too, in drill, discipline, and interior economy, is gradually becoming more sensibly felt, as, one after another, officers and non-commissioned officers pass through them, and the regiments become permeated with their influence. It may now be safely assumed that improvement is permanent and progressive.

Almost directly after my arrival, Col. Worsley was ordered by telegraph to Halifax, to attend the inspection of the City Battalions and Corps by Sir Frederic Middleton. He left accordingly at 4 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon, returning at noon on Thursday, in company with the General, his Aide, Capt. Wise, and Col. Lane, who wished to see the camp, and returned the same afternoon, extremely pleased with what he had seen.

On Thursday afternoon, General Middleton inspected the camp generally, and on Friday, the troops were reviewed. The usual "March Past" in "quick time," and at the "double," took place after the General had ridden down the line. The "Kings" Troop of Cavalry, if the only one in Nova Scotia, does credit to the Province. I doubt if there is a better in the Dominion. The horses are good, and the men particularly steady and soldier-like in their bearing off parade as well as on. It is really wonderful how well the horses do, considering the short time they are together. Capt.

Ryan, who is a thoroughly good, as well as most genial officer, could at any moment raise his troop to a squadron, if the Government would sanction the increase. There was but one thing I should have desired to see in the way of improvement, and that would have been the cutting of the horses' tails to above the hock. I believe there is a good deal of objection to it; but, so late in the year, when the flies have disappeared, I should really think it might be done. It would so improve their appearance. Whether or no, I hope to see the "Kings" troop again, for a better set of fellows it would be hard to find.

The Infantry all did fairly well in the "march past," the 78th particularly so. They are indeed an exceedingly good marching regiment. But a little more precision in the officers' salutes is desirable all round. After the "march past" there was some volley-firing in line. One volley delivered by the 93rd was as near perfection as possible, but all were good. A bit of a sham fight succeeded, which was much better conducted than a great many I have seen. One battalion having been sent up a road leading up a rise on the north side of camp to hold it, the ground was first felt by the cavalry and then attacked in by the infantry in increasing force. After one repulse and sallies, the bugles sounded the "cease fire," and the skirmish corps again took up their position opposite the saluting base. They were then addressed by Gen. Middleton, who expressed much satisfaction at their condition and performances. The General then rode off, resolutely declining to hear the ringing round of cheers which pursued him.

A second burst of cheering followed, apparently in honor of the Deputy Adjutant General, as that gallant officer's stalwart form, brilliant in staff full dress, and admirably mounted, was seen almost before it began, dashing off the field *entre terre*. The several corps then marched back to their respective lines, and the gallant General, who, every one was sorry to observe, was suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism, left by the four o'clock train.

I had nearly omitted to mention that a grand bonfire and an excellent musical entertainment, *ad fresco*, were got up on Thursday evening. The bands were excellent, and there was some very good singing. During the performance the spectators and listeners were startled by the sudden appearance and fall of a meteor, displaying such brilliant colors that the first impression was that it was a colored rocket. On Friday I saw a paragraph in the *Chronicle* speaking of others observed on Friday, morning some hours later than the one we saw, which must have been about half-past eight on Thursday evening.

After the General's departure preparations for moving off began; and, if the indefatigable staff had worked hard before, some of them worked double tides now. The work at the butts, and at aiming drill and theoretical instruction of Major Irving and Capt. Corbin had been incessant, and there was now a little rest for them, but Col. Murray literally worked all night at the pay sheets, and did not even come over to breakfast at the staff-meal on Saturday morning. The pains taken by Col. Murray for the convenience of the men, entitle him to the highest praise. Not content with issuing cheques to the captains of companies only, as is a frequent practice, Col. Murray, at great trouble to himself, carries out his system of furnishing sufficient actual cash for all payments. Now, also, the Brigade Quarter-Master has to redouble his always energetic exertions. But it is almost invidious to single out any one for individual mention where every one is always up to the mark of duty. The fact is, that Col. Worsley would not tolerate an easy-going man. Every staff officer with him must be a conscientious and unsparing worker. He is seconded with abundant zeal, knowledge and tact, by Col. Macshane, and he again by Col. Starratt, an excellent officer, who "knows his work," and who, by the way, stands fifth in seniority on the active list of Lt-Colonels. To Col. Starratt the General and his aide were indebted for their mounts.

I certainly never knew a large camp so quiet and orderly at night, and, indeed, at all times, and Col. Worsley spoke to me on Friday night in the highest terms of the indebtedness of the force to the Y. M. C. A., to whose presence and efforts in supplying the men with reading matter, &c., he attributed a very beneficial influence.

I know nothing so conducive to mutual acquaintance and good fellowship between different sections of country as one of these camps—nothing so calculated to make us feel that we are truly brethren from one end of the Dominion to the other—nothing that so rebukes the sordid spirit to which our national militia force appeals in vain, for there is no sympathy with any such embodiment where there is no patriotism. For myself, I esteem myself fortunate in having made many pleasant acquaintances—possibly some friends—in having seen something of a splendid section of country, and in having had fair demonstration of the high character of the Nova Scotia Militia.

The over gods of the weather were propitious to the last, and refrained from sending a drop of dew on Saturday morning, so that the tents were packed perfectly dry, and by 4 p.m. the beautiful ground was left to its pristine quiet and solitude. I believe they date from the annual camps in that neighborhood, and read the collects in the churches for the Sunday next before camp, or the first Sunday after camp, &c.

[FOR THE CRITIC.]

REPLY TO CHARLES WATTS—AGNOSTICISM.

Mr. Editor,—Having heard the recent lectures by Mr. Charles Watts, and also the controversy that took place, and, as a believer in the Divinity of God as the creator of all things, and in Christ as the Son of God the Redeemer of the world, and the Bible being the Divine Will of God to man. Also, knowing that it is the duty of all true believers in God, who believe in the Divinity of Christ, that He is the Redeemer who gives unto