

more tempting the dangerous lake and after a very ugly time crossing the Grand Traverse where one of the tugs unshipper her rudder and the whole were in very great danger, labouring in the trough of a heavy sea which turned to ice on boats and clothes of the men, they were at last enabled to make Rocky Island where they were obliged to encamp. On the 11th the expedition embarked and sailed across the Traverse with a fair wind till within twelve miles of the North West Angle when it was stopped by ice. Sailed about three miles on the 12th until stopped by ice, landed and made preparations for marching to the North West Angle. On the 13th the march across the ice commenced and the North West Angle was reached that evening. A heavy snow storm prevailed all day.

As is well known the Expedition reached Fort Garry on the 18th and concluded a most remarkable voyage and march successfully without detracting in the slightest degree from the well earned honors of the first Expedition or underrating the hardships willingly endured, it is evident it was a mere picnic party compared to the last. One day's work in the ice was worse than ten days' labor in fine summer weather, and we are happy in being able to congratulate Major Scott and the officers and men under his command on the very successful manner in which they surmounted the difficulties encountered in one of the most remarkable Expeditions on record.

The officers of the Canadian army are, as a general rule, a well trained body of soldiers—well acquainted with the peculiarities of climate and country, and with all the knowledge necessary to make their services in actual warfare valuable—hitherto owing to very commendable precautions the highest positions in the district staffs have been filled by officers from the British army—but it appears that the time has arrived when that system should cease if we are to have an efficient staff of native officers, or if the highest offices in our army are to be the prizes for which these officers on whom the onerous duty of supporting a contingent for the services of the country devolves, contend. Our military force is recruited by voluntary service, the officers of a company must possess the confidence and respect of the men, and if they are to retain their commissions, keep their quota's continually recruited to full strength; moreover they are personally responsible for the arms, clothing and stores, and, theoretically at least, are bound to make good all deficiencies—this with other contingencies will make the cost of a company from \$200 to \$600 per annum. It is perfectly reasonable that the officer who, in addition to all this responsibility and outlay, must qualify at a military school, for his rank should look to the higher positions on the staff as the reward of his exertions, and ultimately as vacancies occur they should be filled without exception by Canadian

officers entitled to succeed by merit and seniority.

The singular ability and skill displayed in the administration of our military affairs warrants the conclusion that in future every effort will be directed to promote meritorious officers whose claims are that they have answered the call of their country and borne the burthen and heat of the day in her defence. The general expectation of the officers of the force and of the people points decidedly in the direction indicated, and it is in accordance with the dictates of sound policy. The utter disorganization of the British regular forces might induce officers to seek service in the Canadian army and thus block promotion to our own soldiers, but it would be an unwise measure as well as unjust when the service the Canadian officer has rendered the country is taken into consideration.

His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis, third surviving son of the Emperor of all the Russias, arrived in this city on the evening of the 18th inst. (Monday,) on a visit to His Excellency the Governor General, he was accompanied by the Russian Ambassador to the United States, Barn Catagacy, Vice Admiral Possiet, Counsellor of state Machun and other members of his suite. On Tuesday the Mayor of Ottawa and corporation presented an address in the Senate Chamber, the Grand Duke arrived at the Parliament Buildings at three o'clock accompanied by Lord Lisgar his suite occupying another sleigh, and were received at the grand entrance by Lieut. Col. Macniel, V. C., A. D. C., the Hon. Lieut. Ponsonby, A. D. C., Lieut.-Col. Barnard, A. D. C., and Capt. G. H. Perry, Rene Kimber, Esq., usher of the Black Rod in full court costume, acting as Master of the Ceremonies. A guard of honor of the Ottawa Brigade of Garrison Artillery under the command of Major Ross and Capt. DeBoucherville, were drawn up partly outside and partly inside the Hall, the fine band of the Brigade playing the Russian National anthem. The distinguished party passed to the Vice-Regal apartments and after a few minutes during which the Hon. S. L. Tilley, Hon. Jos. Howe, Hon. Peter Mitchell and Hon. Mr. Aiken were presented to the Grand Duke, the distinguished party were ushered into the Senate Chamber which was filled with the fair ladies of our aristocratic circles, while the galleries were densely crowded. Mr. Kimber introduced the Mayor and following members of the corporation Alderman Cunningham, Bangs, Martineau, Henry, O'Connor, Lapierre and Rowe, His worship read the following address.

To His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia, &c., &c., &c.

May it please your Imperial Highness: In the name of the citizens of Ottawa, we give you a cordial welcome to the capital of our young Dominion.

We welcome you as an illustrious repre-

sentative of one of the mightiest nations of the Old World.

We welcome you as a worthy scion of the Imperial House whose beneficent and enlightened rule has done so much to promote the well being and happiness of their subjects; and we welcome you as a distinguished member of a noble profession, which we as Englishmen, are wont to hold in peculiar honor.

It is to us a source of gratification that notwithstanding the shortness of your sojourn in America, you have found time to make at least a hurried visit to that portion of the continent, whose people, as happy subjects of England's Queen, claim connection with the ancient monarchies of Europe.

We sincerely hope that your visit to Canada may prove as agreeable to you as it is gratifying to us, and that you may carry back with you to your home in the northern capital of the Old World nothing but pleasant memories of your too brief stay in this northern capital of the new.

Signed on behalf of the corporation:

JOHN ROBERTSON, JR.,
Mayor.

Ottawa, December 19, 1871.

His Excellency the Governor General received the address and handed it to vice-admiral Possiet who placed the following address in the Grand Duke's hand.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen.

I thank you most heartily for your cordial welcome and in the name of His Majesty the Emperor I beg to express my gratitude for the compliment you have paid to the Imperial House and to my country. I am, indeed, proud of belonging to a profession which has produced some of the brightest names which adorn the pages of history and which you esteem so highly.

Being so near Canada I thought it my duty, and it is a most agreeable one, to pay a visit to His Excellency the Governor General who is the representative of a sovereign for whom I have the most profound respect. I only regret that my limited time does not allow me to make a longer stay amongst you, but be assured that I shall carry home most pleasant memories of a country where I have been so kindly received and which has an additional charm for me, as at this season of the year it so much reminds me of my own.

The Grand Duke read the reply in a clear and distinct without any foreign accent; he is a very fine young man and very plainly dressed, he evidently appreciated the climate as he wore a plain hat, although a smart snow storm made most people pull down ear flaps, and was loudly cheered by the galleries to whom his allusion to the Queen was very gratifying, cheers were also given for the Governor General, and lastly what no Canadian assembly can forget, three cheers for the Queen. The Grand Duke visited all the Parliament building, and returned in the Governor General's sleigh to Rideau Hall. His Imperial Highness left Ottawa at 9 a. m on Wednesday 20th.

The Canadian Illustrated News has issued a magnificent Christmas number with a supplement containing Milton's Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity, and a beautiful Christmas Hymn illustrated with characteristic vignettes. It is accompanied