

MILITARY BALLADS.

X.

A SONG OF THE CAMP.

"Give us a song!" the soldiers cried,
The outer trenches guarding,
When the heated guns of the camps allied
Grew weary of bombarding.

The dark Redan, in silent scoff,
Lay, grim and threatening, under;
And the tawny mound of the Malakoff
No longer belched its thunder.

There was a pause. A Guardsman said,
"We storm the forts to-morrow;
Sing while we may, another day
Will bring enough of sorrow."

They lay along the battery's side,
Below the smoking cannon;
Brave hearts from Severn and from Clyde,
And from the banks of Shannon.

They sang of love, and not of fame;
Forgot was Britain's glory;
Each heart recalled a different name,
But all sang "Annie Laurie."

Voice after voice caught up the song,
Until the tender passion
Rose like an anthem, rich and strong—
Their battle-eve confession.

Dear girl, her name he dared not speak;
But as the song grew louder,
Something upon the soldier's cheek
Washed off the stains of powder.

Beyond the darkening ocean burned
The bloody sunset's embers,
While the Crimean valleys learned
How English love remembers.

And once again a fire of hell
Rained on the Russian quarters,
With scream of shot, and burst of shell,
And bellowing of the mortars!

And Irish Nora's eyes are dim
For a singer dumb and gory;
And English Mary mourns for him
Who sang of "Annie Laurie."

Sleep, soldiers! still in honored rest
Your truth and valour wearing;
The bravest are the tenderest—
The loving are the daring.

BAYARD TAYLOR.

The *Oban Times* says: "The true reason why the Highlands do not form a happy hunting ground for the recruiting sergeant is simply because nothing is known in the Highlands of what life is in the army. With the exception of one at Inverness, there is not a military depot in the North. The counties of Argyll, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness—which could furnish the very class of men required for our Highland regiments—possess nothing by which the people may be made familiar with military life.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

The *Canada Gazette*, of 4th inst., contains General Orders No. 10 and 11.

G.O. 10 is of interest, and reads as follows:—

MILITIA TRAINING, 1893-94.

The following corps of Active Militia will be held in readiness to assemble for training in camps of instruction at the places herein mentioned, on dates which will be notified hereafter.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 1,—LONDON, ONT.

1st Hussars; London Field Battery; 25th, 26th, 28th, 30th, and 33rd Battalions.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 2,—NIAGARA, ONT.

2nd Dragoons; 1st Brigade Field Artillery, Hamilton; Welland Canal and Toronto Field Batteries; 19th, 20th, 31st, 39th, and 44th Battalions.

MILITARY DISTRICTS NOS. 3 AND 4,—KINGSTON, ONT.

3rd Dragoons, 4th Hussars; Kingston, Gananoque and Ottawa Field Batteries; 16th, 41st, 42nd, 45th, 47th and 59th Battalions.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 5,—LAPRAIRIE, QUE.

6th Hussars; Montreal and Shefford Field Batteries; 50th, 51st, 85th and 86th Battalions.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 6,—ST. JOHN'S, QUE.

5th Dragoons. Place to be notified hereafter. 55th and 84th Battalions.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 7,—LEVIS, QUE.

Quebec Field Battery; 17th, 81st, 87th, 88th and 92nd Battalions.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 8,—SUSSEX, N.B.

8th Hussars; Woodstock and Newcastle Field Batteries; 67th and 71st Battalions.

MILITARY DISTRICT NO. 9,—ALDERSHOT, N.S.

King's Hussars; 68th, 69th, 75th and 93rd Battalions.

G.O. 11 contains promotions and appointments, among which we notice the promotion of Major Henry G. S. Dixon, M.S., to the command of the 86th, "Three Rivers" Battalion of Infantry. Lieut.-Col. Dixon has risen from the ranks, having enlisted in No. 5 Company while attending school at Berthier. He subsequently went through the Military School, and in 1880 was appointed to a lieutenancy, from which position he has steadily risen to his present rank. He is the only English-speaking officer in his battalion. We regret to see that the 86th is not to drill at camp this year, but we presume that the new commanding officer will get his men together as often as possible by companies or half-battalions.

THE LATE COL. FANE.

We regret to announce the death of Colonel Francis Fane, who commanded H. M. 25th Regiment, "Kings Own Borderers," in Canada during the sixties. He retired from the command of the regiment and from the army service about the year 1868. At a recent period, some half dozen years ago, Col. Fane revisited Canada as a tenant farmers' delegate, the delegation having been arranged by Sir Chas. Tupper to report on the state of Canada for emigrating tenant farmers. On returning, the Colonel made a report extremely favorable to the Dominion. Col. Fane served in India during the mutiny. At that period of his service he raised and commanded the Pshawur Light Horse. He subsequently came to Canada in command of the 25th Regiment. His corps will be well remembered as one of the smartest and best drilled regiments in the Montreal garrison. Col. Fane took a great interest in music, and originated the series of military concerts which were held in the old Crystal Palace on St. Catharine street, in 1866, by the brigaded bands of the regiments then here; never before or since was such a musical treat in the way of military music afforded the citizens of Montreal.