

We see further a general agreement as to the facts which ought to be known, and the manner of getting at the information. The work required may be shortly stated as follows:—

- 1st. A thorough military acquaintance with the topography and resources of all lands belonging to the nation and its neighbourhood.
- 2nd. An intimate acquaintance with the armies and military institutions of foreign powers as well as of the home army and institutions.
- 3rd. A scheme for movement of troops by railway, road, or water, according to probable eventualities. This is based on a study of home and foreign means of communication.
- 4th. Military history, which is always a mine of information if honestly drawn up according to official knowledge.
- 5th. Selections from the above items of knowledge carefully drawn up and published for the information of the Army. This requires frequent use of the printing press.
- 6th. In the three countries the Staff is charged with the issue of the requisite maps in case of war; and, for this purpose, is in close intimacy with the great map-making establishments represented by our Ordnance Survey, which is a civil branch, though conducted by Officers of the Royal Engineers.

(To be Continued.)

#### The "B" Battery Dramatic Fete.

Last night will be remembered by the immense assemblage who were present in the Music Hall as one of happy memories and *couleur de rose* reminiscences, and for which our military friends from the Citadel are deserving of every praise. The Hall, long before the playing of the overture, was filled to its utmost capacity; the majority of the ladies and gentlemen occupying the reserved seats wearing evening dress, which gave a most pleasing and distinguished tone to the coloring of the scene, which was brilliant in the extreme. Every available portion of the building had been hung in bunting representing almost every civilized nationality. The space around the foot of the stage was draped by an enormous Royal Standard; above the proscenium was a most tasteful decoration formed by the entwining of the flags of England, Ireland and Scotland. The harp of Old Erin on the green was in delicate compliment to the nationality of the noble guests, Lord and Lady Dufferin, placed in the centre. On either side of the stage floated the blue and red ensigns of Great Britain, while the entire circuit of the gallery was festooned with the flags of Canada, France, United States, Spain and other countries; and to complete the splendid exhibition of bunting, wires were stretched right up to the ceiling, upon which were hung innumerable bannerets and signal flags at certain distances apart; separating and supporting these masses of multi-colored fabric were placed stands of halberds and lances. A large space was left in front of the stage for the band, and two brass cannon, polished up to an amazing degree of refulgence, guarded by sentinels, were placed in a position so as to command (the attention only) the whole audience. For all this minute laborious and appropriate preparation which transformed the Hall into a veritable temple of Mars, Captain Holiwell may be

thanked, for he certainly worked hard and contributed greatly to the successful issue of the entertainment. At eight o'clock Lord and Lady Dufferin and suite, accompanied by members of the Lieutenant-Governor's family and the Mayor, entered from the dining-room entrance into the Hall, taking their places on the sofas and fauteuils prepared for them—the band playing the National Anthem, and the audience all standing. After the Schubert Overture had been satisfactorily disposed of, the curtain rose on the first scene of "Boots at the Swan." In this amusing little farce, Lieut. Sheppard, as "Frank Fuskly," acted the role of a devil-may-care sort of gentleman ever ready to sacrifice or place himself in a ridiculous position to further a friend in need, and sustained the part thoroughly. Captain White, as "Mr. Higgins," whose name was not romantic enough to suit the exigent tastes of the languishing "Miss Moonshine," did extremely well. The veritable hero of the plot, "Boots," the character taken by Gunner Mellon, either as the obstinately deaf waiter or disguised in policeman's clothes, and with a latent affinity for sherry, was immense, and provoked great laughter, Young Ryan, as a page whose boyish nature was not proof against the seductions of jam, was also a success. The ladies were well acted in their parts, and the whole play ran very well. In the interim that followed the thrilling strains of "Strauss' "Amoretten Traume" waltz filled the building with harmony, and no doubt there were many little love dreams dreamt out to the time of the Vienna Kapelmelmeister's music. From gay to grave was the next sequence, and in lieu of the side splitting laughter came the solemn silence and strict attention necessary to a due appreciation of Shakespeare's weirdest tragedy "Hamlet." The platform scene was enacted by Col. Strange as "Ghost," Gunner Dolby as the "Prince of Denmark," Sergt. Lane as "Horatio" and Captain Devine as "Marcellus"; where all seemed so thoroughly imbued with the spirit of the scene, it would be hard to individualise, but it must be said that the sepulchral tones of the visitant from the other world, and the anguish of "Hamlet" were extremely well represented by the two first mentioned gentlemen. In the succeeding scene in which "Polonius" (Capt. White) gives his famous advice to his son "Lacertes" (Sergt. Lane), and "Hamlet upraids the Queen" (Mrs. Smith), for her strangely quick allegiance to her deceased husband's brother; the acting was worthy of professionals. Gunner Dolby and Col. Strange were much applauded in the principal roles of "Hamlet" and the "Ghost." "Offenbach" came to the front when the drop scene fell, and his well-known lively music caused many a little foot and hand to mark time to the exhilarating cadence. The concluding piece entitled "Turkish Baths" was received with incessant peals of laughter. Everybody who took part in it, apparently engaged the mad rollicking humour of its plot and dialogue as well as audience. The farce runs somewhat in this way: "Bill Sprigs" (Gunner Dolby) a Cockney accustomed to the management of wax-works, female giantesses, pig-faced ladies *et hoc genus omne*, has transformed himself into the proprietor of a Turkish Bath, and assumed the garb and gibberish of a Musselman, "Dost Ali Khan" by name; his assistant, "Tom Griggs" (Capt. Devine) also a Londoner, dubious in his, does the animated Sandwich advertising business with flaming posters pendant before and behind, he is also the Co. in the Baths. After a long spell of bad

luck there comes to them a type of Anglican swell, "Adolphus Fitzmortimer" (Sergeant Lavie), with eye-glass and piccadilly weepers, who wishes for a Turkish bath, merely as a subterfuge for changing his attire and disguising himself so that he may elope with "Miss Amelia Tippet" (Mrs. Smith) who has consented to make the baths a rendezvous where she may also change her dress so as not to be discovered. The swell is received by Dost Ali, and quickly conveyed to one of the heated chambers and boiling water turned on at an immense rate. Then appears the lady, and difficulties commence, their being no female attendant, Griggs is finally induced by the sham Moslem to don a nondescript garb, which was supposed to be the attire of a she Turk. The fun commences, "Griggs" is very unhappy in his feminine trappings, and sends the lady forthwith to her compartment, at the same time turning on a tremendous supply of sulphuric acid. The two pseudo-Turks now begin to talk over their adverse fate; in the meantime the lovers have changed their habiliments and left the establishments, leaving their discarded garments behind them. The both managers at last wake to a sense of their duties, and discover to their horror that their customers are stopping an exceedingly long time in their rooms. Each tries to rouse the occupant, but it is of course in vain and, on inspection, they are terror-stricken to find nothing left but a heap of clothing worn by the victims when they entered the establishment. They accuse themselves of being murderers; one thinks he has baked the lady, the other that he has boiled the gentleman. After half an hour of very funny remorse they are made happy by the reappearance of the runaways, who have in the meantime got married, and of course everything winds up happily. Captain Devine and Gunner Dolby were thoroughly *au fait* in their respective parts, and acted with nerve and vim. The same may be said of Sergt. Lavie and Mrs. Smith, upon whom fell the principal portion of the female representation of the evening. This report would be incomplete if the stage fittings and the arrangement of the scenery were not mentioned. Mr. Charles Heavens, who is now the janitor of the Music Hall and has the complete control of the working of the mechanism and scenery, brought forth, last night, the resources of the Music Hall to their fullest extent, and has demonstrated that our only theatrical resort has an abundant supply of the wherewith to add to the illusion of the play.

It is with regret that we learn that the B. Battery amateurs are to lose their bright particular star Gunner Dolby, who leaves for England to day, having chosen the life on the boards in preference to the profession of arms.

At the conclusion of the Turkish Baths, the band played "Come Back to Erin" and "God Save the Queen," and the large party dispersed, all apparently well pleased with the entertainment provided for them.

There were several policemen in plain clothes in the gallery, under charge of Detective Skeffington, to prevent boys from making a disturbance; but there was fortunately not the slightest trouble, the audience being in every sense a model one.

The San Francisco Bulletin estimated the three leading products of that State for the coming season as following: Wool, 50,000,000 pounds; wine, 15,000,000 gallons; wheat, 45,000,000 bushels.