

WITH THE "VICS" TO TORONTO.

In these days when journalists are achieving distinction as war correspondents, when the names of Archibald Forbes and Dr. Russell have become household words, a newspaper man's breast burns with the desire of emulating these men of iron mould, especially when their arduous and self-sacrificing career is to be rewarded with the Victoria Cross, although the German Iron Cross would be more appropriate a reward for these men of blood and iron. You may call the writer for the press a "special" or even be grudge him the humble title of reporter, yet he is always ready to sacrifice himself for the public and for his country and to serve them with whatever amount of descriptive powers his brain has put at the disposal of his pencil, and with the modesty characteristic of law students and "medicos" in their first year, who both are ever ready to give advice in cases within the jurisdiction of Themis or Esculapius, he is ever ready to impart to his readers all that he does know and a great deal more. As the tramp says "I was with Grant before the war," so can the writer of this sketch say "I was with the 'Vics' when they went to Toronto." For some time past, his brain had been fired with a military ardour, and tired of writing up everything from a wedding to that other execution, a *suspensio collum*, he had longed for an occasion to display his talents as a military scribe, and following in the steps of the Count Alfred de Vigny to say something about *Servitude et grandeur militaires*. An occasion presented itself a few days ago, when he received an invitation from the popular Colonel of the "Ladies' Own," known among his men by the *soubriquet* of "Bobby" Whitehead. The proverbial Queen's weather did not put in an appearance for the benefit of the gallant regiment which bears Her Majesty's name. In the rain did they meet to parade on the Champ de Mars and in the rain and ankle-deep did they march through the mud to the sole-inspiring strains of their excellent band, *pegging* away like soldiers to the *last*. No one, however, who saw them turn out at Toronto, looking as fresh as new paint, would have imagined the muddy ordeal they had been through. A guard of honour of the Prince of Wales's Rifles escorted their comrades in arms to the Bonaventure Depot. At last, the train moved away amidst loud cheers from the Victorias and their many friends, who had assembled to bid them farewell, and then came the time to indulge in a little grumbling at the expense of that railway company for whom, as is proverbially known, Canada was made, for certainly the Grand Trunk Railway was never made for Canada. Some of the cars were so imperfectly lit up that it was a matter of impossibility to while away the tedious hours of a long journey by reading; there was barely light enough to find the way to one's mouth. Moreover, the so-called "special train" arrived in Toronto two hours and one half behind time, thus upsetting pre-existing arrangements. Very little sleeping was enjoyed during the night, which was devoted to singing, election speeches and "yarns"; a melodious tin-whistle band relieved the monotony of the proceedings. Sentries were posted at the door of each car to prevent over-crowding, their orders being to let no one pass from one car to the other, with of course the exception of the ubiquitous press, to whom the sentries were instructed to *press* ent arms. Supper time soon arrived and the officers looked after the wants of the men, Potter supplying them with tea and coffee, their mothers, sisters, cousins and aunts having previously supplied them with sandwiches. The first stoppage was made at Cornwall, but the rain still continuing to fall in torrents, and the night being dark, few only got out and promenaded the platform. In the officers' car, rubbers of whist were being indulged in, the band occasionally dropping in and giving them a serenade. At day-break, Doctors Baynes and Tunstall went the rounds, but did not find any "sick" men; a few perhaps suffered from hoarseness brought on by straining their vocal powers. At Cobourg, a bolt was made for the pump and then the work of washing and polishing up began in real earnest. Attached to the train was a barber's shop under the management of Wethey, who materially contributed to the comfort of the regiment. Be it here mentioned, he introduced a new wash, which is here christened the "Victorias' Wash." All have heard of a "soldier's polish" and of a "Scotch lick," but Wethey has superseded all this. Shampoo *à la Victoria* was but ten cents; this included, however, a facial ablution, consisting in a wet towel being rubbed over the face; it brought back tender recollections of the nursery and of eyes full of soap-suds; it is many years since the writer has had his face washed, by some one else, be it understood. The sensation was pleasant. *Experto crede*. It was now time for breakfast and officers and men attacked the viands prepared for them by Potter and Messman Hall. The latter is too well known as a caterer to require praise; he was selected from all others to cater for Vice-Royalty on its first journey from Halifax to Montreal; not only did he attend to the inner wants of his mess, but busied himself the whole time attending to their comforts, laying out and cleaning their clothes and quietly and skilfully performing those *mitte et une choses* conducive to a traveller's well-being. He was equal to any emergency. Toronto was reached at half-past nine and the "Vics" turned out, presenting a trim and soldier-like appearance, notwithstanding their lengthy journey. It should be mentioned that they were accompanied by some

twenty members of the Montreal Cavalry, who, under Trumpet-Major Clapham, worthily represented their corps; they looked smart, kept together and were specially remarked for their bearing and appearance during their stay in Toronto. Captain McArthur, who was a guest of the officers, may well have felt proud of them. It may not be out of place to give here some figures concerning the strength of the battalion. They are as follows: Field officers, 3; Staff officers, 6; Captains, 5; Subalterns, 12; Staff-Sergeants, 8; Sergeants, 20; Brass-band, 42; Bugle-band, 17; Pioneers, 7; Rank and file, 254. Total, 374. On arriving at Toronto, the men were quickly formed into companies upon the City Hall Square, and were then marched to the St. Lawrence Hall. Having completed their toilet, they were conducted to a vacant warehouse in the iron block on Front street, where they enjoyed a hearty breakfast prepared for them by the Queen's Own. A short time after the corps, headed by its band, was on the march to the Garrison Common, where it took up the position assigned to it to await the arrival of the Vice-Regal party.

The Mayor drove on the ground at about eleven o'clock, closely followed by Lieut.-Gov. Macdonald, with Mrs. Hingston and Miss Macdonald in his carriage. The Oakridge and Markham cavalry to whom was committed the task, had great difficulty in keeping back the surging crowds desirous of improving their points of observation. A few minutes after noon the Vice-Regal carriage appeared and was thought to be occupied by His Excellency and Her Royal Highness, but it was not, and so the Royal standard which had been elevated was lowered again. In the carriage were Lady Sophia Macnamara, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Moreton and Col. Gzowski. The Marquis and Princess appeared a few minutes later on horse-back attended by Major de Winton, Captain Harbord, Captain Bagot and the body guard. Her Royal Highness wore a black riding habit, with rolling collar and brooch, dogskin gauntlets and a riding hat, while His Excellency appeared in plain morning dress. On the party reaching the saluting point the Royal Standard was raised, the salute of 21 guns was fired, the troops presented arms, and the National Anthem was played. The assembled thousands cheered lustily as the party, which was now joined by the field staff, rode to the right of the line.

The following is the complete list of the military: Cavalry—Governor-General's Body Guard, 75 officers and men; Cobourg squadron, 75 do.; York squadron, 75 do.; Port Hope troop, 43 do.; Peterboro' troop, 44 do.; total strength of cavalry, 312. "A" Battery, 117 officers and men, two guns and 12 horses; Hamilton Field Battery, 76 officers and men; Toronto Battery, 76; Wellington and Ontario Batteries, 44; Toronto Garrison, 42; Total strength of Artillery, 355. Engineer: Second District Engineer Corps, 94; Montreal detachment, 21; Total strength of Engineers, 115. Rifle Brigade: 2nd Queen's Own, 8 companies, 430; 3rd Victoria, 6 companies, 374; 20th Halton, 7 companies, 375; 38th Brant Dufferin Rifles, 273; Total strength of Rifles, 1,453 men. Infantry Brigade: 7th London Light Infantry, 7 companies, 325; 10th Royals, 10 companies, 270; 13th Hamilton, 6 companies, 273; 31st Grey, 7 companies, 375; and 46th West Durham, 6 companies, 273; Total Infantry, 1,516. Grand total, 3,751. The line was minutely inspected and presented a splendid appearance, the band of each corps playing as the party passed. The march past was in the following order: Governor-General's Body Guard, Cobourg Cavalry, York Cavalry, "A" Battery, Toronto Field Battery, the Wellington and Ontario Batteries keeping the ground, Second District Engineers Corps, Montreal Engineers, Queen's Own Rifles, Victorias, of Montreal, 20th Halton, 35 Dufferin, 7th London, 10th Royals, 13th Hamilton, 31st Grey, and 16th East Durham.

The march past was most creditably performed the two Rifle Corps, the Queen's Own Rifles and the Victoria Rifles dividing the palm. His Excellency then addressed the field officers, highly complimenting them on the very fine appearance and excellent marching of the different corps. The review over, the Victorias and Queen's Own played a friendly football match which was won by the former. In the evening, the rank and file of the visiting regiment were "dined" by their hosts, and during the night, King St. was "done," the whole city turning out to view the illuminations. The officers were entertained to dinner at the National Club. Too much cannot be said of the generous fashion in which the Toronto corps treated their Montreal visitors who will only be too glad to see them once more in their midst, in order to reciprocate all their kindness and courtesy. Cols. Otter and Whitehead may both feel proud of the display their regiments made on that day. Montreal was reached on the return trip without any incident worthy of note.

C. E. R.

THERE is some talk in Parliamentary circles about the Prime Minister going over to Ireland on a visit to the Duke of Marlborough and remaining in Ireland for a period of three or four weeks. The chief's most intimate personal friend, Mr. Montagu Corry, is most anxious that Lord Beaconsfield should cross the melancholy ocean, if it were only to have the opportunity for twelve hours of making acquaintance on their soil with representative men among the humbler section of the Irish population.

CANADIAN ANNALS.

In this age of many books it may be wondered that twelve years of Confederation were suffered to pass ere Canada produced for herself a work of the kind now before us. The want of a systematic record of each year's events has long been felt, and the time-honored example of the *British Annual Register* might years ago have suggested how it might be supplied. But the truth appears to be that, though Canada had taken the name of a Dominion, and though the first Governor-General under the new order of things had formally applied to it the significant designation of "a new nationality," we had not confidence enough in ourselves to be sure that the time had come for us to have a record particularly our own. The growth of a new country to a position of importance among nations is not always as well observed and understood as it ought to be by those who are nearest at hand; it is, in fact, the circumstance of their being too near at hand that prevents them from seeing the great extent of the ground that has been travelled over. An American statesman, the late William H. Seward, was among the first to take into his mind's eye a large picture of what Canada is yet to be, and more recently an English writer, Mr. J. T. Vennor Smith, has seen in the capabilities of our great North-West more than had been observed by ourselves. The old idea of Canada survives long after new circumstances have altered the case, and people are apt to retain in their minds the conception of what was, largely to the exclusion of what now is. Even the great event of Confederation did not suffice wholly to break the spell, but succeeding events, working in the same direction, are gradually making it clearer as to "whither we are drifting." In years back it has been a generally accepted thing that there was no destiny for Canada, except either in the old Colonial relation, or in annexation to the United States, and even now there are those who see nothing else for us but one or the other of these alternatives. Now, however, the idea of new Colonial relations, and of a policy calculated to perpetuate the separate existence of a vast Dominion in this northern region of the continent, apart from and independent of the great Republic, is beginning to make headway, and every year will fix it more prominently in the public eye. The publication of a *Canadian Annual Register* is one of those small events which help to show the direction in which greater events are carrying us.

This opening number of an annual record, to be continued in after years, naturally includes a review of the events of some years preceding, in order to show how the present situation has been reached. Fortunately it has not been at all difficult to find a proper starting point. The first of July, 1867, at once occurs to us all as the day from which to date the commencement of the new history of Canada—the volume of which we as yet see only a few opening pages. The work begins with a political retrospect of events from that date until the close of 1877. Next follows, what makes up nearly one-half of the book, the political history of 1878. It is well observed that, politically, the year was one of the most important in the history of British North America, certainly the most productive of remarkable events since that of Confederation. It witnessed the rejection by the people, at the polls, of one Government and the substitution of another, on one great issue, which for the time swallowed up all others, like Aaron's rod. The great importance of this overwhelming popular decision, and the far-reaching consequences likely to flow from it in time to come, are acknowledged. The year will be memorable also as that of the departure of the most thoroughly popular Governor-General that ever bore rule in Canada, and which witnessed the arrival upon our shores of his successor, a nobleman himself of illustrious lineage, and bringing with him as his consort a daughter of our beloved Queen, this being the first event of the kind in British Colonial history. The political history is throughout ably written, and gives a connected view of what happened during this eventful year, filling over 180 pages. A principal merit of this review, which is, in fact, the greatest merit that a review of the kind can have, is its direct, simple statement of the things that actually happened, free of any partisan remarks on motives or results. The reader is told plainly and clearly what occurred, and is left to make up his own criticism for himself. This could have been no easy task, indeed, but it has been well accomplished. Some thirty pages are devoted to a journal of remarkable occurrences, which will be of much interest in years long to come after this. One event of the year, or series of events, the country's reception of the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise, is properly given a place by itself. Next comes a brief account of scientific institutions, and following that a business retrospect of the year, and a record of remarkable trials. Then come lists of promotions and appointments in the public service, Imperial, Dominion and Provincial, and the book closes with a very comprehensive obituary, an appendix and indexes to both names and books.

The great value of good books of reference is generally admitted, but few people realize how

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valuable they actually are. It is something to have such books ready to be referred to at any time. To any one who professes to take an interest in his country's welfare, a concise and trustworthy record of events is simply invaluable. We are not surprised, therefore, to learn that this book of Mr. Morgan's is receiving the patronage of statesmen, judges, lawyers, the clergy, medical and other professional men, business men, and in fact of citizens generally, all over the Dominion. It is satisfactory to see that this very successful first attempt is meeting with good encouragement, and it need not now be doubted that a *Canadian Annual Register*, worthy of the country, has been established as one of our "Institutions."

THE MONTREAL GENERAL HOSPITAL.

We have received the fifty-seventh Annual Report of the Montreal General Hospital for 1878-9, which bears testimony to the immense amount of good accomplished by this institution, one of the most magnificent charities in the Dominion. The whole of the report is very interesting, but the following figures will, better than anything else, give an idea of the work done. The total number of in-door patients treated during the year was 1,660.

Of the in-door patients treated to a conclusion there were:

Males	916	Protestants	796
Females	636	Roman Catholics	746
		Other Religions	10
Total	1,552		1,552
Ordinary patients	1,218	Immigrants	14
Do pay patients	272	Strangers	137
Private do	62	Sailors	138
		Citizens	1,263
	1,552		1,552

In the Out-Door Department of the Hospital sixteen thousand two hundred and twenty-three (16,223) prescriptions were given to patients, a reduction of 2,694 below the number of last year.

Of the out-door applicants there were:

Roman Catholics	12,777	Immigrants	5
Protestants	3,440	Strangers	138
Other Religions	6	Sailors	125
		Citizens	15,995
	16,223		16,223

A large number of other nationalities are found amongst the patients.

It is pleasant to be able to report that the epidemic of diphtheria, which began in 1876-77, has been less prevalent in the year under review, there having been 33 cases instead of 52, the number admitted last year. There has also been less typhoid fever than in the last five years, the admissions this year having been 46, the average admissions for the last ten years having been 71 per annum. Among the changes during the year we notice that Dr. J. H. Burland has retired from the office of House Surgeon to the Hospital, the duties of which he has discharged to the satisfaction of the Board of Management, and for his success in private practice he has the good wishes of the Governors.

OUR CHESS COLUMN.

Solutions to Problems sent in by Correspondents will be duly acknowledged.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

J. W. S., Montreal.—The number of solution to Problem was wrongly printed. Many thanks for papers, &c. Editor Hartford Times, Conn. U. S.—No paper received for two weeks.

E. H., Montreal.—Correct solution received of Problem for Young Players No. 238.

X., Montreal.—The position is correct.

R. F. M., Sherbrooke.—Correct solutions received of Problem No. 241; also of Problems for Young Players Nos. 237 and 238.

J. H., Montreal.—Letter received. Many thanks. The contents came too late for insertion this week.

Of problem making there is no end, and although every day produces new ones, there are still beautiful combinations to be made, and, we may say, the resources of the lover of this delightful art are almost boundless. We recollect a friend of whom it was related that he never felt happier than when, after the labours of the day, he was able to set out his chessboard and men, and allow his imagination to conjure up such a grouping of a few pieces as would combine in one position, as far as his powers would allow, all the essential properties of a good problem, such as *difficulty, beauty of arrangement, novelty, economy of force, freedom from duals, &c., &c.* Now, if there exist many such chess students in our midst, and we are led to believe there are not a few, we would earnestly recommend to them the notice in the August and September number of the "Huddersfield College Magazine" of the prize offered by the Rev. H. R. Dodd, of Stretton, Warrington, Eng., for a tourney, which is certainly unique as regards its conditions, as it obliges the competitors to confine themselves to certain prescribed pieces, and with these, and these only, to form their combinations. The pieces and pawns to be employed in the construction of the problems for competition are the White King, Queen, Rook and Knight and three Pawns, and the same pieces of the other colour.

The tourney is open to all the world, and each competitor is to contribute one original problem in three moves. Copies of the problems, on diagrams, are to be sent to Mr. John Watkinson, Fairfield, Huddersfield, on or before Sept. 30, 1879, from composers in the United Kingdom, and on or before November 30th, 1879, from composers resident abroad. Four prizes are to be given, decreasing in value from the first, which is a money prize of about \$5, and the rest are useful works for the chess student's library. The problems are to be published anonymously in the H. C. M. beginning with the number for October, 1879. We have been invited by the Editor of that magazine to call attention to this interesting tourney, and we have much pleasure in doing so.