

shock when it reaches its human billet when the objective is a longer distance away and the initial velocity reduced. But the new rifle has great advantages. One bullet may hit and pass through two or three men, and if the moral effect of the Lee-Metford is less at short ranges than the Snider or the Martini-Henry, it is an incomparably superior shooting weapon to either, and it has a magazine attachment which would meet a sudden rush with a veritable storm of lead and steel.

As a matter of fact the magazine appears to guarantee the new small-bore weapon against failure to stop rushes of troops such as some well-read people appear to dread, and considering the amount of attention given to the subject, and its undeniable importance we appear to have good reason to congratulate ourselves that the proposal to re-arm our militia with a single loading small bore weapon miscarried.

There is much indignation expressed throughout the force generally over the contemptibly mean report published in an Ontario paper reflecting upon the character of one of the officers of the Royal Canadian Artillery, who was recently in England, attached for a course of instruction to the Royal Artillery. The report was directed against a gallant and traditionally genial officer of the Quebec Garrison, whose deservedly high standing socially, combined with his popularity in the force and out of it, made it impossible to attach the least credence to what is evidently a very mean piece of scurrilous slander. That a gentleman who possesses a reputation as a very Bayard in politeness should have given gross offence at the mess of the Royal Artillery, as is charged, is, we re-iterate impossible to believe. There are in our permanent force a few officers who are a credit to their corps neither professionally nor socially, but the majority of our officers are fit to take their places at the most fashionable mess tables in the Imperial service, and in this latter class is included the popular officer who has been attacked.

Talking of social qualification reminds me that our big Canadian cities have not much to boast of in

the way of municipal entertainments. At any rate we are a long way off yet from the magnificent ceremonials of British cities. When Vice-Admiral Erskine and his officers of the North American and West Indian squadron called upon the municipal authorities of Montreal at the City Hall, it was all at once remembered that naval officers have throats and that the municipal larder was empty. The chief page was despatched in hot haste for the wherewithal to furnish up a little luncheon, while the mayor and aldermen took the visitors about the big building to kill time until the eatables and drinkables might arrive. The party had, however, got back to the mayor's luxurious apartments before the veteran page got back, breathless and with numerous parcels under his arms and carried up by his assistant. A hamper of champagne, dusty and grimy, was hoisted up on the big round table, numerous capacious paper bags containing crackers, cheese, etc., were grouped around it, and the luxurious luncheon was inaugurated. But in the hurry the ice was forgotten and the wine was about the temperature of July ditch water. The corporation made amends later by a splendid spread to the officers of H. M. S. Canada, but the Vice-Admiral and the Magicienne had gone.

Major General Herbert's valedictory to the Canadian militia, published in the last General Orders, bore the stamp of generosity and sincerity. The General bestowed praise where it was due and withheld criticism where he might well have made it. General Herbert shows that he appreciates the fact that he exacted much of all ranks, and he gives them the credit for responding to the best of their ability. The General implies very distinctly that if there are so many shortcomings in the force, it is not the fault of those composing it. General Herbert was not the kind of a man to inspire any deep affection in the force under his command; but his sincerity and his indefatigable efforts on behalf of the force are universally recognized.

Canada is to be congratulated upon the inauguration of the monuments on the battle fields of Lundy's

Lane, Chrysler's Farm and Chateauguay. Those three engagements saved Canada to the empire, of which she finds it so advantageous to be a part, and were moreover the occasions of the display of as much courage and loyal devotion on the part of British soldiers and Canadian militiamen as consecrated the plain of Marathon and defile of Thermopole in the days of Grecian chivalry. It implies no spirit of un-neighborly hostility to the republic of the United States that Canada has undertaken to remind the generations to come that their forefathers successfully fought, and nobly gave their lives to repel the determined invasion of Canadian soil by the powerful country to the south of her. Our friends across the lines are just as good neighbors as we would wish for. Common origin, common instincts, common religion and common interests make it unlikely that the two countries will go to war with one another hastily, but what has once happened may occur again. The three monuments just inaugurated or about to be inaugurated, will serve to remind Canadians of the necessity of being prepared to resist invasion.

The United States realizes the great value of naval defenses upon the great lakes if Canada doesn't. The new revenue cutters about to be constructed for service on the lakes are specially designed to be converted into high speed gun boats on a declaration of war. They are fitted with ports for bow torpedo tubes, sponsons for guns, etc.; and torpedo boats, guns and the rest of it will be kept where they can be placed in position at a moment's notice. The treaty, of course, prevents Uncle Sam from maintaining more than one armed vessel on the lakes during peace, and the U. S. Steamer Michigan just comes within the treaty. Then naval militia corps have been formed at the lake seaports. In the Canadian waters of the lakes we have no cruiser and no convertible gunboats, and at our lake ports we have no naval militia. It seems a pity that the Dominion Government does not induce the Imperial Government to send one of the smart smaller cruisers of the Thrush and Partridge type to the lakes every year. The enthusiasm which would result would