

audiences, seldom have I felt my heart so full, my powers of expression so inadequate to the occasion as at the present moment. It is rarely that a General officer, upon relinquishing an important position, is so honored by kind sentiments and good feeling in the presence of so many officers of that force he has been so long proud to command. When nearly six years ago I came to Canada I was aware that as the first British General officer who had ever been entrusted by a Colonial Government to command their national forces, I was in some measure an experiment, that the experiment has not been unsuccessful, I have the pleasure to feel, by the appointment of a successor at the termination of my term of service, and by the living proof of being the guest to-night of so many officers of the Dominion Militia. Gentlemen, it is not by the welcome accorded to a stranger upon first arriving to occupy a prominent public position that his character is to be estimated, it is far more after being tried and proved and honored as I feel I am to-night at the eve of my departure that the happy reflexion comes home to the heart, that in whatever I may have failed the honest desire to do right to all around me has not gone altogether unrewarded in the estimation of those most competent to judge. Since I came among you, gentlemen, I have tried, as my aim and efforts have been ever through a long military life, to do my duty to our Queen and to the country and Government I have the honor to serve, and though in the position I occupy there is much that demands a careful discretion to modify the sterner discipline of regular armies, yet I trust I have but rarely overstept the bounds of that discretion; I have tried rather to perform the part of the old pilot, to stand by the helm in fair weather and in foul, and to keep the ship's head firmly towards her port while steering with a steady hand as she ran her course. I must not detain you, my friends, remembering how time presses and how many of you must speedily disperse to distant homes. When I look around and reflect how many of the present company could address you with more persuasive eloquence I am reminded that as a soldier my forte lies in action more than in contemplation, and that among them some one will thank you on their behalf better than I would, but I may repeat in taking leave of you what I have said upon another occasion. That since my first landing on these shores, wherever I have traveled in the wide and mighty region between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, wherever I have mingled with the people of this great country, in whatever circle or society I have had the honor to be admitted, I have always received the genial kindness and the cordial welcome of a warmhearted and a loyal people, and I trust in the future I may again in England meet some of the kind friends whom I have made in Canada, and continue that cordial good fellowship that binds us together as the free and happy subjects of our most Gracious Sovereign. I feel a pride that my last public act in Canada should have been, upon this loyal anniversary, to command the troops to-day assembled upon the historic Plains of Abraham, where the events of bye-gone centuries have handed down to this generation, the Canada of to-day, inhabited by a united, prosperous and law abiding population. The pleasure we all felt to-day in doing honor to our Sovereign was enhanced by the presence of Her Majesty's representative and by two illustrious members of the Royal Family, the Princess Louise and Prince Leopold. In His Excellency the militia will always have a powerful advocate and patron, in their welfare and progress His Excellency takes as warm an interest as in that of every important institution of this country. And now I must bid you adieu though I feel how hard it is to be parted from those among whom I have so long dwelt with so much pleasure, yet more bitter indeed is the sorrow that flows when perhaps, to many I may now be saying fare-

well for ever. I thank the Governments under which I have served, and the four Ministers of Militia under whom I have so agreeably conducted my duties. And I thank you one and all, gentlemen, for the downright kindness and good feeling you have always shown me and which I shall never forget.—(Applause).

—“Too many cooks spoil the broth” is an old and true adage, and it is to be greatly deplored that the 62nd Battalion (St. John, N.B.,) should have, upon their late visit to Quebec, unfortunately had their pleasure marred by experiencing the truth of this saying. Through a misunderstanding between Mr. Gregory, of the Marine and Fisheries Department, who had kindly volunteered to look after the interests of that regiment during its stay in this city, and Mr. Hall, the Quarter-Master of the corps, the men were found, at the last moment, upon their arrival from New Brunswick, to be totally without rations, and no provision made to get any; and though the non-commissioned officers and men of “B” Battery had generously voted a day's pay to give their “brothers in arms” a dinner the next day, besides the 50 cents per man voted by the Central Committee, this meal was not forthcoming either. “B” Battery were greatly chagrined at the way things were mismanaged, and hope that at some future day they may be afforded an opportunity of making amends for the discomfort suffered by the men of the 62nd, though the fault lay with others.

#### GUNCOTTON.

Experiments in Austria, up to July, 1871, show that musket balls fired at short ranges against unfrozen dynamite caused its explosion. The following conclusions were arrived at upon further experiments:—

1. Frozen dynamite cannot be exploded by leaden balls having a velocity not greater than 1,300 feet per second.
2. Unfrozen dynamite placed behind and immediately in contact with an iron plate will explode from the shock of impact.
3. Dynamite can be completely protected by the use of a sufficiently thick plate, at the same time maintaining a space between plate and dynamite, plates of iron 0.17-inch (?) and of steel 0.23-inch thick will be found sufficient.

The idea of plating wagons was, however, abandoned, chiefly on account of the addition of weight, and the impossibility of protecting them from artillery fire, under which the armour would become an element of danger.

The main spread of splinters, &c., due to the explosion of a wagon containing 69 lbs. of powder and 92 lbs. of dynamite was 164 to 131 yards, but pieces fell beyond in a circle of about 240 yards radius.

PURVEYOR TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR GENERAL.

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Quebec, 1st March, 1880.

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