

IT is difficult to speak moderately of so exquisite a souvenir as the Canadian Club of New York, or more probably its energetic president, Mr. Eastus Wiman, has just issued under the patriotic title of "Canadian Leaves." This book in printing and paper is simply perfect, and its illustrations, by Mr. Thomson Willing, A. R. C. A., are on a par with its typographical excellence. They consist of portraits of the several contributors to the pages, in most cases excellent likenesses and in every case rigorous drawings, and of initials, fancy headpieces, embracing mottoes, and a few tail pieces, all specially designed and showing a high degree of artistic ingenuity and appropriateness. The literary portion consists for the most part of papers read before the Canadian Club by the foremost litterateurs of the Dominion. Mr. Goldwin Smith's already widely published "Schism in the Anglo-Saxon Race," occupies a prominent place. Principal Grant discourses on Canada First; Mr. Bengough gives a characteristic paper on the humorous side of Canadian history; Mr. J. M. LeMoine tells the story of three notable heroines in New France; Mr. J. A. Fraser gives an artist's experiences in the Canadian Rockies; and the Rev. Dr. Ecclestone speaks of our vast North-West; Prof. Roberts entertains us with "Echoes of old Acadia"; Dr. Geo. Stewart speaks of the literature; Mr. John McDougall of the minerals, and Mr. Collins of the future of our Dominion; Hon. Mr. Butterworth has an article on Commercial Union, and Mr. Wiman's speech on the same subject, delivered at the reception to the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, is reproduced. The book contains finally a description of the club, its origin and its objects, by Mr. Geo. M. Fairchild, vice-president, who has acted as editor of the volume and who is to be congratulated on his great success. While some views may have been advanced that would challenge discussion, the extremely high literary reputation of the several contributors are a sufficient guarantee of the high quality of the papers. The book, on a whole, must be of great service to the Dominion as embodying articles of rare literary and artistic merit.

"Boots and Saddles!"

BY TROOPER WILL T. JAMES, GOV. GEN'S BODY GUARD.

WHAT trooper ever mustered on the field,
Where battle parts the trophies lost or won,
And where one alternative—die or yield—
Comforts him at the muzzle of each gun,
Has felt no thrill when, on some pitch dark night,
That forefelt danger—why he can't account—
Seems brooding o'er the way to a fierce fight,
The startling trumpet sounds the call to mount?

It may be for some venturous raid or, worse,
The interception of a midnight march;
Seldom he knows which 'tis: orders are terse.
No time has he to guess. The lantern torch
Shows him familiar things while he equips.
His tender eyes rest last on those from home;
Perchance he lifts a keepsake to his lips,
Thinking of one he left in youth to roam.

When once outside the canvas threshold, he
Forgets he ever had a home, till when
The squadron forward trots, and thought is free
To conjure up old memories again,
Or to anticipate the journey's end,
From which alive he never may return
To camp, to home, to mother nor to friend,
To all for whom his quickened love may yearn.

War's but a game of chance to those who fight,
And bullets like the rattling of the dice;
Who stands at morning may fall ere the night,
A victim of the slaughter's sacrifice.
Among the dead or dying have been found
Both steed and rider who obeyed the call
Of "boots and saddles" near the marshalling ground,
With corpse for comrade or black night for pall.

But there's exhilaration in its notes
For him who has to warfare been inured;
The pulse of courage amply antidotes
Fear of impending harm to him obscured.
Music has in it more than soothing charms,
It can arouse as well as lull to sleep,
Its cadenced tongue can trumpet war's alarms,
And eyes it ope'd to laughter cause to weep.

Summing up the whole matter, then, I affirm that, as common humanity demands that relief should at once be afforded to the suffering veterans of the Union army; since the veterans of the Confederacy are even more needy; since we acknowledge the honesty of their purpose, and have long ago condoned their offence; and since they are fellow-citizens of the Republic both in duty and in privilege, it follows that we should at once relieve them from actual suffering if we can; and we certainly can, if we will, because we have the money, and don't know what to do with it. *Rev. John A. Cass in American Magazine for March.*

THE STATE OF THE FORCE.

Inutility of the present system of Target Practice.

Recommendations from the District Commanders.

EXTRACTS from the report of the Deputies of the Adjutant General in charge of the several military districts, contained in the annual report of the Department of Militia and Defence furnish, in detail much interesting information concerning the state of the force. In the hope that the extended publicity thus given may prove beneficial in effect, we give below a synopsis of the most noteworthy complaints and recommendations:—

An outcry has been raised about rural corps being authorized to drill only once in two years, but Lieut.-Col. Otter, in his report for No. 2 District, calls attention to a case even worse. He says:

"Among the corps unauthorized will be noticed the 37th battalion (Haldimand) which has unfortunately not been under arms for two annual drills, or nearly three years. This occurs owing to the strength allowed not being sufficient to cover all the corps not drilled last year.

"In this connection I would beg to draw attention to the apparent unequal division of the drilled strength of the several districts, through which in some cases a battalion has two drills in three years, while in the case of the 37th it has only one drill in three years."

Col. Otter also embodies his recommendations on the subject of the drill of the city corps in camp, as follows:—

"In entering upon my report of the city corps, I would most strongly recommend that they be sent to camp at least once in every three years; the additional cost would not be much, while I am convinced that the knowledge acquired of duties, discipline and interior economy with the practice of extended order, outposts, etc., which such a plan ensures, would be most beneficial to them."

The same officer draws attention to the absence of hospital supplies, so often the subject of complaint. Speaking of a serious accident at the camp for No. 2 district he says: "In this and one or two minor cases that occurred, great inconvenience was caused by the absence of instruments, splints, etc., and I would most fully endorse the recommendations of Surgeon Strange for the issue of such articles in each camp, as well as an extra blanket per man; also hospital cots, with palliasses for use in the Field Hospital."

This paragraph also sounds familiar; let us hope occasion for its reappearance will be removed: "It is my duty in this connection to call attention to the number of almost useless rifles (issue of 1867) that are to be found throughout the district (No. 2), being honeycombed and worn out by wear, age and bad care, also to the saddlery of the cavalry and accoutrements of the infantry, hardly any single article of which, save new issues, is really fit for ordinary use to say nothing of actual service."

On the subject of accoutrements the testimony of Lieut.-Col. Houghton, D. A. G. of the Winnipeg district, may be added: "The accoutrements, however, as frequently reported by me, as well as by both Regimental and District Boards, are quite unserviceable, and until they are replaced the battalion cannot be regarded as being in an efficient state to take the field for actual service." Also the report of Lieut.-Col. Worsley, D. A. G. of No. 9: "Canteens were served out to the remainder of the district. The equipment in camp consists of a great-coat, strap, waist-belt and ball bag—10 rounds, a frog and havresack. The 50-round pouch is no longer serviceable, and has been condemned in both my districts by the Regulation Board, the leather having perished and become rotten. I trust that the "Oliver Equipment" may be purchased and issued; it is acknowledged, by the most distinguished officers in Her Majesty's service, to be on a true principle, and is far superior to anything the British have, or, I think, any nation has, and I do hope its merit may be recognized by my department."

THE TROUBLE IN THE NINETY-FIRST.

The official investigation into the affairs of the 91st Battalion, Winnipeg, having been made the subject of so many newspaper paragraphs, it will be interesting to read the report of the D. A. G. in this connection. He says: "I regret much to have to state that, consequent upon the death of the late commanding officer, the corps has fallen into a rather disorganized and highly unsatisfactory condition the next senior officer, now in command of them, not appearing to have obtained their confidence or support, as may be seen from the tabular report of the inspection of that corps on the 25th November, 1887, showing that of an authorized establishment of 26 officers and 276 non-