



THE LATE LIEUT.-COL. SKINNER.

Two days after the 13th received their colors, the regiment made their first appearance at a review which was held in Brantford, when General Napier had no less than 2,500 men under arms. Of these, 1,000 bayonets were British Regulars and the remainder were Canadian Militia. It is evidence of the splendid state of efficiency the regiment was in, even at that early date, that only two officers were absent from the parade, each company, with but two exceptions, and these unavoidable, having its captain, lieutenant and ensign present with it. Such efficiency is worthy of being recorded for it must be borne in mind that in those days the Canadian Militia was by no means a very popular force. It had not become fashionable then as it is now, and many people laughed and jeered at those, both officers and men, who accepted commissions or joined its ranks, saying: "It was playing at soldiers," with other remarks of a derisive or deprecatory nature.

*Nous avons changé tout cela.* Now the mere fact that a man belongs to the militia is considered a credit to him, people no longer talk about "playing at soldiers," they recognize the public spirit and patriotism that induces men to give up their leisure and their means

to provide for the defence of their country.

At the review just referred to, the 13th distinguished themselves for their general proficiency and received well merited commendation from the general officer commanding.

Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan retired from the command of the 13th, retaining his rank, December 30th, 1864, and on January 27th, 1865, was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Booker, who had commenced his career in the Canadian Militia in the Hamilton Field Battery of Artillery.

Lieutenant-Colonel Booker retained the command until August 10th, 1866, and was followed by Lieutenant-Colonel James Skinner, who, for more than twenty years was the commanding officer. On the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Skinner, he was succeeded by Hon. J. M. Gibson, under whom the regiment attained a degree of efficiency alike creditable to itself and to the force of which it forms a part. Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson retired from the active command at the close of the drill season of 1895, having served in the regiment for over thirty years. So great was the estimation in which Lieutenant-Colonel



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