

ally operated in time of war, and which will be, as a matter of course, commanded and fought by artillery officers.

Why, then, is not this whole torpedo business turned over to the artillery? Here are the officers, the men, and organizations all prepared. It will require but five lines of an order from the Secretary of War. Of course, such a common sense, practical, economical measure will meet with strenuous opposition from the friends of those who hope for appointments or promotions in the proposed corps; but the new Secretary could not perform a more sensible act, in entering upon the discharge of his duties, than to disregard the solicitations of these interested aspirants, and set the artillery at work immediately in learning the working of the torpedo, which is now recognized as the chief reliance in our system of sea coast defence.—*N. Y. Sun.*

The Quebec Banquet to His Excellency the Governor General.

His Excellency the Governor General was entertained on Wednesday evening 21st inst., at a magnificent banquet given in the Music Hall by His Worship the Mayor and the citizens of Quebec. No pains or expense was spared to make the affair one of the most brilliant events of the day. The hall was elegantly decorated, flowers being in abundance.

Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin occupied a position on a raised dais, which was draped with the British and Dominion flags. The Royal arms were attached to the front of the gallery, and the shields of the different Provinces were displayed around the walls.

The following Gentlemen were seated at the head of the table:—His Excellency the Governor General, having on his right the Lord Bishop of Quebec, Hon. Mr. Cauchon, Hon. Mr. Justice Fournier, Hon. Mr. Fabre, Judge O. Stuart, Mr. C. A. P. Pelletier, M. P., Mr. P. B. Casgrain, M. P., Mr. H. T. Tasc hereau, M. P., Dr. St. George, M. P., and Col. Duchesnay. On the left of His Excellency were His Worship Mayor Murphy, of Quebec; His Hon. Lieut. Governor Caron, of Quebec; Hon. A. Mackenzie, Premier of Canada; Hon. Judge Taschereau, Hon. Mr. Ballargeon, Hon. Judge Caron, Hon. Judge V. P. W. Dorion, Judge Doucet, Hon. Mr. Thibaudeau and Col. Strange. Among the other gentlemen present were Mr. Lefavre, Consul General of France; Mr. Howells, U. S. Consul; Hon. G. Ouimet; Mr. John Hearn, M. P., Mr. Alex. Chauveau, M. P. &c., &c.

His Worship the Mayor shortly after ten o'clock proposed the health of Her Majesty the Queen, which was duly honoured, as was of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales and the Royal Family.

The toast of the evening was then given by His Worship amid loud applause. He said it was his privilege to ask them to drink to the health of a most distinguished statesman, the Governor General of the Dominion. His Excellency had special claims upon the citizens of Quebec, on account of the kindly interest he had ever manifested in the welfare of their city. (Cheers.) They owed him a debt of gratitude of which this banquet was but a feeble expression. Never could the citizens of Quebec forget the interest he manifested in the city; whatever the future might bolt out, his kind expressions in their regard would never be forgotten. As His Excellency was suffering from a headache, he (the Mayor) would be brief, but he wished to mention the practical sympathy which His Excellency and the Countess had manifested in behalf of the suffering poor by the

late fire. He would also remark that the conduct of affairs in the Dominion by His Excellency since his arrival among us had been signally conducive to the happiness and welfare of the people. (Loud Cheers.) In assuring His Excellency that he stood very high in the affections and esteem of the citizens of Quebec, he wished also to assure Her Excellency the Countess of Dufferin that she occupied no second place.

The toast was drank with the utmost enthusiasm.

HIS EXCELLENCY'S SPEECH.

His Excellency rose, amid cheers, and said:—

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen, I can assure you that it is with feelings of no ordinary emotion that, for the first time since coming to Canada, I find myself called upon to address a public audience in this ancient capital; for at such a moment I cannot help remembering under what various conditions, in how many vital emergencies, at what supreme epochs of its history during the last 300 years, my illustrious predecessors have had occasion to inhabit the city of Quebec. In a thousand vicissitudes of fortune, in perpetual alternation between triumph and despondency, while the savage Indian enemies were lurking round your palisades; when famine had penetrated your strength, and the unaccustomed rigors of an Arctic winter had benumbed your faculties; when pestilence had devastated your homes; when foreign enemies were threatening your independence, and hostile cannons were brought against your battalions, the Viceroy has appealed to your fortitude, to your patience, to your charity, to your loyalty; and whether in good fortune or ill fortune (you had your share of both, as your history tells us), never was that appeal in vain. (Loud cheers.) But, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, happily those days of dramatic oratory are over. From the rock on which your city is founded, bounded by an interminable ocean of primeval forest and a waste of barbarism, there now stretches forth to the horizon an almost ideal landscape of agricultural wealth and beauty; while your political dominions now require two oceans to confine them. (Loud cheers.) As a consequence of its extraordinary growth, the personal administration by the Vice Royal representative of the affairs of this country have been superseded by the far more legitimate and more efficacious *regime* of Parliamentary Government. (Applause.) But though relieved of those ideal responsibilities which at one time pressed so heavily upon the previous occupants of my great office and brought them into such close, though not always harmonious, intimacy with the community they governed, the Governor Generals of Canada of today are all the better able to cultivate those friendly, social relations with the inhabitants of the country which it is their duty to maintain, and of which this splendid banquet is so gratifying an exhibition. (Loud Cheers.) Glad am I, indeed, and proud, Mr. Mayor, to find that the great admiration which I have always entertained for the beauty of your city, which in my opinion is to be rivalled by only two or three capitals in the world, the deep sense felt by the late Governor and myself of the kindness—I may almost say of the affectionate regard—with which they have always been met by you, should have upon an occasion of this kind received so gratifying a recognition at the hand of such an assembly. (Applause.) Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, I only wish that I could make you some adequate return. That, however, I know to be impossible. But there is one thing I can do at all events; I can take this

opportunity of expressing my warmest and deepest sympathy with the efforts which you have put forth, Mr. Mayor, and those who are associated with you, and those whom I have the pleasure of addressing to night, to do justice to the great inheritance which you have received at the hands of those who preceded you, by using your utmost endeavours to promote the moral improvement, the commercial development and the external and material adornment of your ancient and famous city. I can assure you it has been with the greatest pleasure I have learned that there is now every prospect of our being able to carry to a successful conclusion the scheme which has been set on foot for the reparation and for the embellishment of the ancient fortifications of Quebec (loud cheers)—a scheme which combines a due regard for the growing exigencies of your increasing traffic by the widening of your thoroughfares and the multiplication of your modes of exit and entry. In doing this you are after all only doing that which has been done by every municipality in Europe which has had the good fortune to find itself placed in similar circumstances, and which are all wakening up to the desirability of preserving with pious care the memorials of the past. If this duty is imperative on the other side of the Atlantic, how much more is it incumbent on us to maintain the only city upon this continent, which has preserved the characteristics of its early days—a city whose picturesque architecture and whose noble battlements present a spectacle the like of which is not to be found between Cape Horn and the North Pole. (Applause.) For, Mr. Mayor and gentlemen of the Town Council, let me remind you that you do not hold Quebec merely for yourselves; you do not even hold it in the interests of the people of Canada; but you are the trustees of Quebec on behalf of civilization and of all the inhabitants of the entire continent—(bravo and cheers)—who would regret the ruin and degradation of its walls as an irreparable outrage, and as a common and universal loss. But, happily, there is no danger of any such devastation being perpetrated—far from laying a suicidal hand to these rivals of time, you are preparing to repair, to guard, and to adorn them; and sure am I that in future ages a grateful posterity will hold in veneration those who have preserved intact the sacred memorials of their country's history—memorials which the passing century will invest with an ever deepening glory of interest and splendour. (Applause.) For, Mr. Mayor, that which you are engaged upon here is observed by our fellow countrymen at home. No sooner was it known in England that the citizens of Quebec were about to repair their fortifications than the Secretary of State for War, as the spokesman and representative of the Empire, wrote to inform me that he intended to express his own admiration of the soldiers of England with what has been done here, and was going to the British House of Commons and asking them—and they would receive the proposal with the most enthusiastic acclamation—to vote a sum of money to be expended in the decoration of whatever point along your walls might best connect itself with the memory of those illustrious heroes, Wolfe and Montcalm, whose deeds and valour, and whose noble death in the service of their respective countries has brought lustre upon the respective nations for which they contended and whose outworks they watered with their blood (cheers) but Mr. Mayor and gentlemen, the news of what you are about to do touched the heart of even a more august personage than the Secretary of State for