



## The Chieftain's Farewell.

COMRADES,—Now that all the drafts called for from our Unit have been marched away and the remainder of the Battalion has been handed over to, and has become part of, the 20th Canadian Reserve Battalion (Royal Highlanders of Canada) I am taking this opportunity of addressing you individually for the last time. On the occasion of the drafts to the 72nd, the 13th and the 42nd marching out of Seaford, I had the privilege of saying good-bye to the Battalion en masse. At this time, as well as previously, when orders came by which we were to be dismembered, I took the liberty of going briefly into the history of the Unit, outlining its successes and reverses, and stating my plans for our future.

In fear that there may have been some absentees on these occasions, I am now writing to each of you so that all may know what is in my mind and what my hopes are in the way of having all the boys who are left when the war is over, back once again in the old Battalion, where they may renew the friendships made in these last few months, and present once more to all comers a united front.

The story of the inception of the Battalion and the promises made to me in connection with its being maintained as a Unit, both in England and in France, has often been related by me to you and I therefore need not now

deal with this subject. The promises which I considered sacred, having been made to me by the highest civil and military authorities in Canada, and renewed by the highest Canadian civil and military authorities on this side, were handed on by me to you and I am satisfied that it was because of these undertakings that you were induced, in nearly every case, to leave your home and join the Battalion, which, officered by men of previous experience in France, were to lead the Unit in the firing line. These promises and undertakings have been ruthlessly broken, but in view of the fact that I am a soldier and intend to continue as such while our Country is at war, I have no right to make comment upon the wisdom or lack of wisdom of my superiors, and therefore I refrain from giving reasons as to our dismemberment. It can be truly said that the promise was kept in that we were placed in the 5th Division and it may be argued that because of the breaking up of that Division and of our being in it, we would have to stand or fall with it. I believed and still believe, that there were arguments in favour of our being kept together, whether the 5th Canadian Division were broken or not, and I urged these arguments before the highest authorities I could get to listen to me, but without success. In order that you may know about this, I will briefly set out the points

which I thought were strong enough to convince most anyone as to our case. They are as follows:—

(1) The Battalion was organized upon the distinct promise made to me while lying wounded in La Touquet Hospital, by Sir Robert Borden, Prime Minister of Canada, and by Major General Sir Sam Hughes, then Minister of Militia, that should I recover, I would be permitted to take back a Battalion from Canada to the front. This promise may have been made because I was in a weak condition but it was renewed afterwards in Canada by both of the above gentlemen and because of its renewal I gave up my prospects in the civil and military life of the Country to undertake the organization upon which I had set my heart.

(2) The Officers with which I surrounded myself, were all men who had distinguished themselves in France and Flanders, and most of whom had been wounded so seriously that they need not have again volunteered their services.

(3) The Tartan chosen was that of a Clan which has not been represented in Battle in its own Tartan since 1745, but whose members have served everywhere in the Army and Navy of the Empire with distinction through all these years.

(4) Practically all of the money required for the equipment and recruiting of the Battalion was subscribed by friends of the Unit.

(5) Every Province in Canada and nearly every State in the Union were represented in our ranks and in addition, we had old countrymen from Scotland, England, Ireland and