

PRESENTATION TO COL. BROWN 49th BATT., HASTINGS RIFLES.

(From the Belleville Intelligencer)

An interesting ceremony, in the presentation to Lieut. Col. James Brown, M. P., of the 49th Battalion, of a portrait of himself, painted by Sawyer to the order of the officers of the Battalion, took place at that gentleman's residence on Wednesday evening, 11th inst.

Amongst those present were a number of the officers of the Battalion, together with K. Graham, Esq., M. P. P., the Warden and Messrs. Ems, Anderson, Rose and Armstrong, County Councillors; Thomas Wills, William Sutherland, A. Diamond, Wm. Legate, A. Sutherland, Thos Kelso, A. T. Peira, and W. H. Graham, Esqs., besides the reporters for the *Intelligencer* and *Chronicle*, and several of the senior members of No. 1 Company—the old "Belleville Rifles," those present numbering about forty.

The hour appointed for the presentation having arrived, and the deputation being assembled in the parlor,

Major CUMMINGS, on behalf of the subscribers, said he had been deputed to make the presentation, though sorry that the task was not to be performed by the senior officer (who we learned, had sent a note to Col. Brown, apologizing for his unavoidable absence.) He then read the following

ADDRESS.

To Lieut. Col. BROWN, M. P., Commanding 49th Battalion, Hastings rifles.

The undersigned on behalf of the officers of the 49th Battalion, Hastings Rifles, feel called upon to express in some way, other than mere words, the esteem in which you are held by them, not only as our Commanding Officer, but as a private citizen and a man, who has ever taken a prominent part in all matters affecting the public weal—particularly in the formation of and sustaining a Volunteer Force in this Town and County.

They look back with pleasure, at the readiness with which you have ever done your duty as a Volunteer, and the open heartedness and willing hand displayed in assisting others in doing theirs. And above all the example of self sacrifice which you have ever set in this respect for others to follow.

Identified as you are with the raising of the "First Volunteer Rifle Company," under our new system in this Town, and having under the most trying and adverse circumstances succeeded in connection with the late lamented Major C. G. LeVesconte in maintaining said Rifle Company, serving in it in Amherstburgh and Aultsville, calls for our warmest approbation.

Endearing as these memories are to many of us who served under you during these troublous times, they are materially enhanced by the associations of late years while serving as privates and officers in the Battalion you now command.

With the most kindly feeling and great respect this deputation request that you will accept as a slight token of affection and esteem from the Officers under your Command, this Portrait of yourself, with the assurance and prayer that God in his providence may spare you many years to those to whom you have endeared yourself, and as an example in all matters pertaining to Volunteering for others to follow.

Signed,

- JAMES CUMMINGS, Major.
- G. H. GORDON, Major & Paymaster.
- G. H. BOULTER, Major.
- P. H. HAMBLY, Major,

- Ed. HARRISON, Lieutenant.
- JAMES S. HURST, Ensign & Adjutant.
- ALEX. WHESTER, Quarter Master.
- B. B. FRALOCK, Lieutenant.
- B. H. VANDERVOORT, Captain.
- C. F. RIMNEY, Captain.
- C. FRANCIS, Lieutenant.

Col. Brown, who was visibly affected by this testimony of the regard of his brother officers, said he had, in the course of duty been compelled to speak on many occasions, but he had never so much as at that time felt the lack of words to express his feelings. He felt proud indeed to be surrounded, as he was, by gentlemen the most prominent in the County, who were identified with every public improvement, and many of whom had long been connected with the Volunteer movement, which they had aided and encouraged. He had, in conjunction with the late Major LeVesconte, and Lieut. Col. Rowell—in his capacity as a subaltern—been instrumental in the formation of the Belleville Rifles, which Company he had accompanied to Amherstburgh and Aultsville, and which, he was pleased to say, had earned the commendation of the Inspecting Officer as being the best Rifle Company, in the then Province of Canada. This proud pre-eminence it had gained from the strict discipline maintained by Major LeVesconte. In 1866 he had consulted with Majors Gordon, Cummings, Boulter and Rawe, with the object of forming their isolated Companies into a Battalion, and, these gentlemen meeting his views in the most cordial manner, the 49th Battalion "Hastings Rifles," had been formed. Of the Battalion he was proud to say that to day it stood second in efficiency to none in the broad Dominion of Canada. Its full strength had been represented on all occasions; it had gone into camp and out of camp; into quarters and out of quarters; but there had never been a defaulter in the ranks—never had a Court Martial set to try an offence of one of its members. (Applause.) The duty performed had not been light as his friend, Col. Wills, could tell from his experience in going the rounds of the posts at Aultsville, knee-deep in mud. The men on duty there as elsewhere had always evinced the readiest alacrity in the discharge of the functions which they were called upon to perform. Not a sound of alarm could be raised, but they were one and all out and ready for action. This readiness for duty still continued in the ranks, and he had no doubt should their services ever be unfortunately required, they would still be found in the front ready to defend their country. For the testimonial which was now presented to him, he could but return his warmest thanks. It would serve as a lasting memorial of those with whom he had been associated during his military career, and should be transmitted to those who might succeed him as a precious heir loom.

Col. Brown concluded his remarks amidst general applause, and after a few minutes had been spent in viewing the portrait—which is a faithful representation of the gallant Colonel, and magnificently framed, and which has already been described in these columns—the party adjourned to the dining room, where half an hour was pleasantly spent in social converse, and in drinking the health of Colonel Brown in wine or cider as the guests preferred.

At the invitation of Col. Brown, an entertainment was made to Hambly's, where a splendid repast, worthy of that establishment, was served.

The Chair was occupied by Major Cum-

ming and the Vice Chairs by Majors Boulter Gordon, and Hambly, respectively.

The CHAIRMAN after the viands had been successfully assaulted, read letters of apology from Major Rawe, Capt' Anderson, Lieut. Lennox, Capt. Fillar and Ensign Parker, all expressing regret at their unavoidable absence.

The toast of "The Queen" was then drunk with all the honors and the Chairman stated that this would be the only standard toast proposed as the hour was getting late.

The Warden then rose and said it afforded him much pleasure to be present in his official capacity, to testify to the esteem in which he and the Council held the 49th Battalion. The 49th, when called upon for active duty, had always given a good account of themselves and conducted themselves in a worthy manner. He had the pleasure of being present at the Annual Review in camp at Kingston last year, and it seemed to his eyes—though he might be prejudiced in their favor by partiality—that the 49th Battalion was the finest on the ground. However, his position on the field happened to be near the staff, from the members of which he heard highly favourable comments on the appearance of the 49th. (Applause.) He concluded by proposing the health of the Colonel, officers and men of the 49th Battalion.

The toast was duly honored.

Col. Brown, in response, alluded to the good reputation which the battalion had ever borne. He hoped that they would never again be called upon to repel marauders, but, if difficulties should arise between the Dominion and the great nation south of the line, he had no doubt we should be able to hold our own as our fathers had done before us, as attested at Queenston, at Stoney Creek, at Chrysler's Farm and at other places. (Applause.) The Volunteers were now our national army and he believed they would prove a safe reliance in the hour of danger. Our neighbors had prospered, it is true, but we had advanced in equal ratio. However, he hoped that any difficulties which might arise between us and our neighbors might be settled amicably. As there were a number of other officers who would reply to the toast, he would not further trespass upon their time.

Major Boulter, M. P. P., returned thanks for the manner in which the toast had been received. He felt thankful for the favors which the Battalion had received from the Council, but would not object if they voted another \$100 to the Band, as the Band was the life of the regiment when in the field—(Laughter). There had been the greatest unanimity of feeling among the officers, and the men had done their duty in the most satisfactory manner. He hoped that whatever position the Battalion was placed in, it would do its duty creditably, as it had done in the past.

Major Gordon, Major Hambly, Captain Vandervoort, Lieutenant Fralock and Adjutant Hurst also made suitable responses.

Col. Brown then proposed the "County Council and the Reserve Militia," which toast was duly honored and ably responded to by Col. Wood, Col. Wills, Capt. Armstrong, Capt. Rose, and Capt. Kelso, all of that force.

The Chairman gave "The Legislature of Ontario," to which K. Granam, Esq., M. P. P., and Dr. Boulter, M. P. P. responded.

Other toasts were given and responded to, and the company separated shortly after midnight, having spent an evening the enjoyments of which will not soon be forgotten.