

brought us the joyful news of our ships being in the river; the 15th in the evening, a ship of the line and a frigate anchored also before the town; and early on the 16th our two frigates set sail, ran above the town, and attacked the French squadron, which immediately weighed anchor; but they were so closely followed, and so briskly attacked, that their whole fleet, consisting of six ships ran aground in different places. Their commodore was taken and afterwards destroyed. This was like a thunder-bolt to the French. They went off the same evening, and raised the siege with such precipitation, that they abandoned 34 cannon, six mortars, all their field equipage, their provisions, and, finally, an immense quantity of every implement necessary for a siege. Our light infantry and grenadiers pursued the enemy as far as Cape Rouge, and took many prisoners. The remains of their army is now at Jacques Cartier; and what their further intentions are, cannot at present be known to us.

By recapitulating all that has been mentioned, and adding, that 1,000 men have died during the winter, and nearly 2,000 have been alternately in the hospitals, it will appear that 4,000 men or thereabouts, have accomplished all the work, and sustained incredible fatigues for eight months together, and at a season designed in other countries for the relief and refreshment of troops. Let it further be observed, that it was impossible to receive any pay during the whole winter; yet nobody ever grumbled (a circumstance very extraordinary among common soldiers.) Thus have we equalled, if not surpassed, our forefathers in many things."

Resignation of the Duke of Cambridge.

"The Duke of Cambridge has resigned. Such was the startling announcement which went through the Lobby yesterday afternoon on the House going into Committee of Supply on the Army Estimates. Up to the time Mr. Campbell-Bannerman rose to make his statement not one word had been whispered to lead to the supposition that any such step was in contemplation on the part of His Royal Highness. Our readers this week must excuse our giving only a report of the proceedings in Parliament, and re-echoing, as we can most conscientiously do, the high eulogiums passed upon the Duke of Cambridge by the Secretary of State for War. The announcement of the retirement of His Royal Highness, whether on account of age, and of his infirmities (of which no trace is visible to mark any decline within the last year) or of *outside* pressure, will be heard by the Army with great regret, not unmingled with surprise, for there was no indication in any of His Royal Highness's recent speeches in public that such a measure was in immediate contemplation.

On the vote of £227,000 for the War Office, Mr. Campbell-Bannerman said he had to make to the Committee an announcement of great importance and interest. He had to state that on October 1 next (a date which was regarded as marking the close of the military year) His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge would relinquish the position he had so long held of Commander-in-Chief of the Army. It would hardly be possible for anyone who had followed the history of the Army for many years, still less for one engaged as he (the right hon. gentleman)

had been in the work of the civil administration of the Army to make that announcement without emotion. His Royal Highness had been at the head of the Army for the unexampled period of thirty-nine years. During all that time he had devoted all his energies and abilities to the Service. He had become identified with the Army. The Army in all its ranks had seen in him a true friend and, as he liked to be considered, a faithful servant. It had recognised in him some of the most characteristic qualities of our countrymen, and in an ever-increasing degree the Army was proud of the Duke and fond of the Duke, and when the time came when his active career should cease he would be followed in his retirement with a universal sentiment of gratitude, sympathy, and regret. Happily the time had not arrived for any general eulogy on His Royal Highness's public career, but it impossible not to express one's appreciation of the high qualities he had shown in the discharge of his duties in the important and responsible position he has so long filled. He need say nothing of the Duke's extraordinary familiarity with all the details of the military profession, especially with the traditions, duties, practices and requirements of our Army, a familiarity in which probably no officer in the whole Service could equal him. He would say nothing of the Duke's industry, of the energy he continued to display, even at his advanced age. He wished rather to speak of the qualities which His Royal Highness brought to bear on the service of his country, and which especially appealed to members of Parliament. If the time had now come for the retirement of His Royal Highness, and if some of them were looking forward to what would happen on the occurrence of that event to a most efficient machinery of administration, they could all with perfect consistency look back with admiration and gratitude to the long career of the distinguished commander who was now retiring. They could look to the constant zeal and devotion which had marked his career, and to the marvellous development and improvement in that Army which it had been the Duke of Cambridge's pride to command, and whose interests it was his highest desire to serve. This retirement would impose on the Government, and on the Secretary of State, a serious and difficult task. The present Commander-in-Chief could not be succeeded by an officer with such large powers, but the administration of the Army ought to be adapted to the latest ideas of efficiency. There was no lack of advice, but the most authoritative pronouncement was that of the Commission presided over by the present Duke of Devonshire. He was prepared to say that the Government would accept in the main the suggestion by the Hartington Commission. That was to say, they would avoid any excessive centralisation of the powers of the Commander-in-Chief, and in the next place they would provide for the consultative as distinguished from the executive administration of the duties of the War Department. The Government would recognise that the responsibility to Parliament rested with the Secretary of State and they would provide for the consultative as distinguished from the administrative or executive function by associating with the Minister a council of the five chiefs of the various departments. They did not propose to create a new office of Chief of the Staff; but a general officer would be in command, and he the chief military adviser of the Secretary of State. With him would be associated the general officers, who were directly responsible to the Secretary of State as

heads of departments. These were the Adjutant-General, who was responsible for the discipline of the Army; the Quartermaster-General, who was responsible for the supplies; the Director of Artillery, who dealt with the materials of war; and the Inspector-General of Fortifications, as he was now called, who would deal with works. These five general officers would form an advisory council, by whom the Secretary of State would be guided and advised. He desired to deprecate any too sanguine anticipation of the result to accrue from a mere redistribution of the Headquarters Staff. They must look in the future as they had in the past to that moving force which had never never failed, and would never fail—namely, that attention and intelligent devotion to duty was so conspicuous in all ranks of the Army itself.

Mr. Balfour, premising that the changes foreshadowed in the interesting speech of the Secretary for War must be the subject of anxious discussion in the future, preferred for the moment to turn to the past. They must all feel that the severance of the long connection of the Commander-in-Chief with the Army was a matter which moved them and would move the country when it became known to the exclusion of all other considerations. The Commander-in-Chief had served his Queen and country for forty years, and he had the privilege of all public men of being criticised with tolerable freedom for all that time. But during all that time he had been a bright example of single-minded devotion to the public service, and he had shown a power of continuous and strenuous work of which they could hardly find an example in the public service of the country. As a result of that he had been able to keep abreast of all the changes which had been made.

Sir H. Fletcher, as an old soldier in the House, thanked the Secretary of State for the kind words he had used regarding the Commander-in-Chief, which would be echoed by all ranks in the service.

Sir C. Dilke, while associating himself with all that had been said about the Commander-in-Chief, deprecated in the new arrangements of the War Office the setting up of anything in the nature of a council.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.

It is announced in the Gazette that the Albert Medal has been conferred on Sub-Lieutenant Charles Wood Robinson, of the Royal Naval Reserve, third officer of the Teutonic, for the following plucky act: "While the Teutonic was steaming at the rate of about 21 knots an hour in St. George's Channel, on April 17, 1895, at 6:30 a.m., when few people were about the deck, Mr. Robinson noticed a passenger climbing on to the rail of the ship with the evident intention of jumping overboard. He made an ineffectual attempt to prevent him; and then, without divesting himself of any of his clothing, immediately dived after the man from a height of 25 feet above the water, and only about 30 feet forward of the propellers of the vessel. Mr. Robinson reached the man and did his utmost to rescue him, but his efforts were met with violent resistance, and in the end the man succeeded in drowning himself. Mr. Robinson ran great risk of being drawn under the propellers, and when picked up was in a very exhausted condition." We are particularly glad to notice this prompt recognition of gallant conduct, for it is by such acts of bravery the Royal Naval Reserve officers are demonstrating to the nation that if the time should ever arrive when their country requires their services for more important duty, they will be ready for the call.—*Army and Navy Gazette*.