

French officers against three of the officers of the Hudson Bay Company. A rifle match was contemplated. On the day appointed the Métis, in holiday attire, came from far and near and soon the game began. Money, arms, horses, all were placed by the side of the French officers. The latter carried the victory by fifty-seven points, and that evening there was a jovial time in camp. Some time afterwards came the celebration of the national *fête* of St-Jean-Baptiste. All the Métis population united in decorating the church, where Mgr. Grandin said a solemn mass, in the midst of the general emotion. In the evening the school-room was transformed into a banquetting hall, where a sumptuous supper was given to the French-Canadians of Montreal by the inhabitants of Edmonton and St-Albert. Were not these demonstrations in their very spontaneity good proof of the popularity of a superior officer and of the regiment which he commanded?

Ouimet stood as well with the English of the North-West as he did with the Métis. His stability of purpose, his upright spirit pleased them. He was firm with the unruly, polite towards everyone, suffering no injustice to pass unchecked under his eyes. And with all this he had great consideration for everyone.

One of his officers recounted to me a charmingly illustrative incident. One day, in company with a comrade, he took a walk in the vicinity of St-Albert. In crossing the garden of the Grey Sisters, he stooped and gathered three pansies. Fastening them in his button-hole, he said: "These are for my wife; she shall receive them by the next post."

The Mother Superior of the mission had been witness to the pious theft. She laughingly said to the Colonel:

"You should not have done that. You have shown a bad example to your men in coming to pillage those whom you have bound yourself to defend."

The Colonel smiled, and went his way to the camp. Next day an officer delivered to the Lady Superior a sealed envelope. On the Colonel's card she read the motive which had prompted him to take the flowers. It was wrapped in three bills of fifty dollars apiece, fifty dollars for each flower,—and he who was the bearer of the message will not soon forget the emotion he experienced on witnessing the tears of gratitude with which it was received by the good mother of the orphans of St-Albert.