

MILITARY BALLADS.

XII.

THE SILKEN SASHES.

The Turks were many, the Greeks were few,
But their blood was hot, and their hearts beat true;
And they swore an oath before God on high
Never like dastards to yield—but die.

But how can a hundred champions hope
With foes eight hundred or more to cope?
Death comes, however, but once to all,
Why fear to die, if they nobly fall?

One Greek, a stripling, they sent away,
And sternly bade him this charge obey:
"Go hide and watch, till the combat ends,
Then bear the news to our wives and friends."

At dawn, they quitted the mountain glade,
Where each his couch on the turf had made,
And down to the valley they marched, and there
Upreared a rampart with toilsome care.

The Pacha's envoy gave curt command:
"Disband, ye rebels! at once, disband!"
The Chieftain answered: "It is too late.
Our stand is taken: we bide our fate."

The silken sashes that girt them round—
Long crimson sashes—had been unwound:
And linked together, strong limb to limb,
They proudly chanted a battle-hymn.

The onslaught followed: the heroes fell,
Cut down by sabre and shot and shell;
But ere the lives of the hundred sped,
Five hundred Moslems had joined the dead.

When months had passed since that fatal fray,
An English Colonel who rode that way
Saw sun-bleached skeletons strewn around,
With crimson sashes together bound.

Montreal.

GEO. MURRAY.

Personal Notes.

Lieut.-Col. Turnbull, commandant of the Royal School of Cavalry, Quebec—whose portrait appears on page 127—has a long and honourable record of military service. In 1855, on the formation of a troop of cavalry, he became one of its members, and has ever since been connected with the force, covering a period of 38 years. His commission as cornet is dated in 1862, lieutenant in 1863, and captain in 1864. During that year he visited some cavalry stations of the American army (then engaged in the civil war) and in the following year went through a course of instruction at the Cavalry Department, Canterbury, England; returning in the following March, on the news of the Fenian trouble, during which he had command of the Quebec Cavalry. He visited France in 1867, to see the latest developments in the cavalry arm of that nation. In 1872 and 1875 he attended special cavalry courses in England, being on the cavalry staff at Aldershot during the autumn manœuvres of the last-mentioned year. In 1883 he was appointed to the command of the newly-formed Cavalry School, and during the North-West Rebellion did excellent service in that country with his corps. Since then he has remained at Quebec in command of the School.

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On the morning of 6th inst., Major Mayne, of the Royal Military College, Kingston, was united in the holy bonds of matrimony to Miss Victoria Moore, daughter of the late

manager of the Bank of Montreal in this city. In deference to the wishes of the bride's mother the ceremony was unostentatious as possible, and the exact hour at which the marriage would occur had been made known only to a few intimate friends. However, the interesting bit of news got abroad and there was a large attendance, chiefly, as usual, of the fair sex. The ceremony took place in St. George's Cathedral, the Rev. Canon Smith officiating. Major Mayne, who wore the uniform of his corps, the Royal Engineers, was attended by Mr. Arthur U. Moore, of the Belleville branch, bank of Montreal, who is a brother of the bride. Most of the Easter floral decorations of the sanctuary and chapel were still in place, and the Cathedral looked beautiful indeed.

On the arrival of the bridal party the organ, under the skilful direction of Miss Tandy, pealed forth its welcome in the strains of the Coronation March, from Meyerbeer's *La Prophete*. Mrs. Moore came up the aisle leaning on the arm of her son, Mr. Edward Moore. The bride's sisters, carrying exquisite bouquets, came next. Col. Bog, of Picton, and Mrs. Bog, Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Rogers, and one or two other guests followed, and then came the bride, with her brother, Mr. Wm. B. Moore.

The impressive ceremony was then proceeded with, at the conclusion of which the party returned to the residence of the bride's mother, where the wedding breakfast was served. At 12:40 Major and Mrs. Mayne left on a two weeks' trip westward. In the course of the Summer they will remove to England, the Major having been ordered home by the War Office.

Major Mayne has for a number of years been Professor of Military Engineering in the Royal Military College, and has won the respect and love of the successive classes of cadets. His bride is deservedly popular in Kingston society, and has many admirable qualities. May good luck attend them.

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A cable despatch, received at Rideau Hall, announced the sudden death, in London, of Capt. McMahon, Adjutant of the Third Battalion Grenadier Guards, who came to Canada as Aide-de-Camp to His Excellency Lord Stanley of Preston, Governor-General, in 1888, and remained in Ottawa for about two years. The cause of his death is not known. Ten days previously Lady Stanley saw him in London, and he then appeared quite well.

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At the recent banquet at London of the veterans of the North-West campaign of '85, Rev. W. S. Hall, the revered white-headed chaplain of the Seventh in the campaign, was applauded to the echo, and responded as vigorously. He began service under Her Majesty in 1837. Seven of the direct generations of his family had served in the armies of Britain.

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Mr. Fred. P. Mellish, Color-Sergt. in the 38th, of Brantford, has left for New York, where he will carve out a career for himself. He will be much missed in military and other circles.

Capt. H. R. Brinkerhoff and Lieut. W. F. Blauvelt, two most respected officers of the United States army, saw a huge sea serpent, at least thirty feet long, in Lake Michigan, on the afternoon of the 22nd March. These officers are stationed at Fort Sheridan, Mich., and as a consequence of the weird sight, it is reported that a wave of good resolutions have struck the Fort. A number of brave but convivial soldiers have reformed, and some 200 have signed the total abstinence pledge.

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The steamship *Massachusetts*, of the Atlantic transport line, arrived at New York on 5th inst., with 200 scarlet-coated soldiers of the British Army Reserve; they are to form one of the attractions at the Chicago Exhibition. They are accompanied by Col. F. Vibart, Major Crowdy, Capt. E. B. Stafford, Capt. Dawson, Capt. Croker, Lieut. E. Croker and Lieut. Rawson Turner.

The men bring eighty horses, purchased from the British Government.

They have served six years in the British army, and will serve six months at Chicago. They come in a private capacity only, H. M. Government naturally declining to sanction such an unsoldierlike and purely mercenary scheme.