



Royal Military College Club.

No. 9. —GENERAL NOTES.

The orders recently promulgated by the War Office, London, bearing date 3rd January, 1893, contain among other promotions that of the following:—

4th Battalion, South Staffordshire Regiment.—Super-numerary Captain S. J. A. Denison, to be Major.

The officer above referred to will be easily recognized by his many friends in the person of the popular Adjutant of No. 1 Company, Canadian Regiment of Infantry, stationed at London, Ont.

Major Denison is in the distinguished position of being the first Ex-Cadet to obtain a majority, and at the same time it may be stated that he holds a similar position with regard to the various grades leading thereto.

A combination of circumstances places this officer in the unique position of holding at the present time, no less than four commissions, as follows:—Lieutenant in the Canadian Regiment of Infantry, Captain in the Canadian Militia, Captain in the Army Reserve, and Major in the 4th Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment.

The congratulations of the Club are hereby extended to Major Denison, on his promotion to the Majority of a British Regiment.

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Captain J. Irvine Lang, Royal Engineer, has been ordered to the Gold Coast and purposed leaving England at the end of January. He will be occupied for some eighteen months in charge of a preliminary survey of railway routes.

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In the latter part of January, the undermentioned Ex-Cadets had a pleasant re-union in the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto:—Mr. C. R. Hodgins, Royal Artillery, home on sick leave from India, Mr. George M. Kirkpatrick, Royal Engineers, on leave from India, Captain C. J. Mac-Dougall, Canadian Regiment of Infantry, Toronto, Mr. Arthur E. Hodgins, U. L., who is practicing as a civil engineer in charge of Government works, Nelson, B.C., Mr. J. H. Laurie, Royal Lancaster Regiment, New Fort, Toronto, Mr. W. G. Warner, civil engineer, Department of Public Works, Toronto, Capt. W. M. Davis, Adjutant, 22nd Batt., who is practicing as a civil engineer, Woodstock, Capt. W. F. VanBuskirk, R. L., who is practicing as a civil engineer, Stratford, Mr. W. A. H. Kerr, of the law firm of Blake, Lash and Cassells, Toronto, Mr. James Hesketh, of the London Field Battery, who has been employed in locating a railway at Port Arthur, Capt. J. D. Mackay, Royal Grenadiers, Toronto, Mr. R. A. Brock, of the firm of W. R. Brock & Co., Toronto, Mr. Randall Davidson, Supt. of the N. B. & M. Insurance Co., Montreal, Mr. W. C. Brough, Water Works Engineer, Toronto, Mr. A. T. K. Evans, U. L. Department of Public Works, Toronto, Mr. L. H. Irving, R. L., and Mr. Francis Joseph Dixon, U. L.

Capt. Davis kept the room in roars of laughter in his own inimitable way, whilst Mr. Irving told of the time when he was Sergt.-Major and his trials and difficulties, and Mr. Hodgins related his experience of India fever and gave an ocular demonstration of its terrible effect.

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Some few days ago I incidently had occasion to be shewn a paragraph in a letter received by an officer in Quebec, from a gentleman holding a commission in the 5th Northumberland Fusiliers, in which was stated, "I have met several members of your Military College in the Service and have always noted that they are popular fellows." This is very complimentary and shows the feeling towards the gentlemen who have accepted Commissions in the Imperial Service from the Royal Military College of Canada. This

can be better appreciated when it is known that the writer in question gave his opinion entirely unsolicited and merely in a general way when writing on a subject having no bearing or connection with the college or its graduates.

R. M. C., No. 47.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC.

Hitherto pipers and bagpipes have been looked upon as the special property of Highland regiments, and few are aware that Irish regiments have a strong claim to be allowed a similar distinction. The Irish pipe is of very ancient origin, and an attempt is now being made for its revival in the national corps of the country. The 1st Battalion Leinster Regiment has now five fully trained pipers, who play when the regiment is out on the march, and also in the mess on guest nights. The pipers seem to be most popular in all ranks.

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A contributor to a recent number of *The Admiralty and Horse Guards Gazette* in mentioning the trouble in the Household Cavalry says:—"Why should there be any privileged regiments at all? Every corps in the service should have its tour of foreign service. A regiment which remains in a metropolitan centre, or within easy access of such a centre, stagnates; nay, worse, it degenerates. Not only should the Foot Guards, but the Household Cavalry, be placed on the list for foreign service in their proper turn." In another article the *Gazette* argues that the condition of the British Army is not satisfactory. Speaking of former days it says: "A very small percentage of the officers of those days could have passed the stiff competitive examination of these 'latter times;' but they knew how to handle a sword and to lead a forlorn hope. If Tommy Atkins then 'fought under the cold shade of aristocracy,' and at intervals drank hard, he likewise fought hard, though with inferior weapons, not against ill-disciplined savages, but opposed to European soldiers, and foemen worthy of his steel. The fact is, we want a stouter class of recruit. A little less mind and a little more body would not be out of place with a considerable section of both officers and men of the present day. With the lower ranks, the abler-bodied of the young men now find more attractive markets for their vigor than the Army supplies, and this tendency is increasing. For the higher ranks the candidate with brains and a special course of preparation inevitably come out on top, while the physically perfect, but not exceptionally mentally brilliant candidate, becomes one of the great army of failures. We doubt whether the Duke of Wellington, as Arthur Wellesley, would have stood the slightest chance of passing the competitive examination of 1892, and the same remark might be applied to many laurelled names."

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In 1879, when the present Duke of Portland was plain Mr. W. J. A. C. J. Cavendish-Bentinck, he was serving as a subaltern officer in the Guards at the age of 22. On one bright morning, the over night of which he was detailed for the duties of orderly officer of the day—it was the custom of his batman when calling him to bring his master a brandy-and-soda from the mess—he did so this morning, but on going to the mess-man for the "S" and "B," he was told that his master, Mr. Cavendish, was the Duke of Portland, through the death of some outside cousin.

He went to the bedside of his master and said, "It's time to get up, Your Grace; shall I put your soda-and-brandy on the chair?" Up raised the head of the young Duke, and with his mouth wide open, shouted to his servant, "What the devil do you mean by calling me 'Your Grace, by George I'll report you to the Adjutant.'" "You are Your Grace, really sir," said the man; "for some Duke's dead, as is your fourth cousin." "Is that so?" says the young officer of the Guards. "Yes sir, Your Grace," said the batman. "When then," said the Duke, "drink the soda and brandy yourself, and bring me a bottle of champagne."