

spirit which leads men on, like overgrown school boys, to breaches of discipline at the moment apparently of trivial importance, but which, as the following example, also quoted from Napier, will show, have sometimes even saved a hostile army from utter destruction, and might easily, in that manner be fraught with the destiny of a nation.

Wellington, occupying the hills between Elisondo and St. Estevan, had Soult nearly hemmed in, in a deep and narrow valley.

A few hours gained, and the French must either surrender or disperse. Wellington gave strict orders to prevent the lighting of fires, the straggling of soldiers, or any other indication of the presence of troops; and he placed himself among some rocks at a commanding point, from whence he could observe every movement of the enemy. Soult seemed tranquil, and four of his gendarmes were seen to ride up the valley in a careless manner. Some of the staff proposed to cut them off. The English General, whose object was to hide his own presence, would not suffer it, but the next moment three marauding English soldiers entered the valley, and were instantly carried off by the horsemen. Half an hour afterwards, the French drums beat to arms, and their columns began to move out of St. Estevan, towards Sumbilla.

"Thus the disobedience of three plundering knaves, unworthy of the name of soldiers, deprived one consummate commander of the most splendid success, and saved another from the most terrible disaster."

Let us, if we can, imagine the state of mind of a man who should find that his reckless selfishness had been the means of losing a great victory. It is easier to imagine the state of others' feelings towards the delinquent. Any death would be too good for so miserable a scoundrel, were it not, that the inadequacy of any punishment to atone for the stupendous wrong, leaves the memory of the offender nothing but sickening contempt. Disgust and contempt, are, in fact, the predominant feelings with which the true soldier regards causeless breaches of discipline. There is far more misery wrought in the world by fools, than by knaves. Unhappily, we have seen in military life, folly and knavery combined, and the result is correspondent.

Believe us, brother soldiers of the Canadian Army, the calling of a soldier is high and honorable. It is not from the refuse of a population that any army should be recruited, least of all a defensive national force such as ours. Let us all remember what terrible effects may be produced by insignificant causes. Let us all resolve that each of our corps shall do no discredit to the intelligence of our country, and let us hope, that the bond of brotherhood existing between all members of our Militia, may, in the future, be strengthened and cemented by that mutual respect between all classes—privates, non-commissioned officers and officers—which can only rest on the basis of thorough responsibility.

On the Gunboat, *Prince Alfred*, arriving at Chatham, Ont. there to take up her winter quarters, the following addresses were presented to the officers and men, and an appropriate reply was made to each on their behalf by Captain WYATT, the Commandant Gunboat Agent.

CHATHAM, Nov. 25th, 1872.

To the officers and men of the Gunboat *Prince Alfred*.

SIR,—Allow us, the undersigned, on behalf of the officers and men composing the 24th Battalion, Kent Active Force, to extend to you, on your first visit to the heart of this county, in your fine vessel, a hearty welcome. Your presence amongst us, brings to mind the fact, that the *Prince Alfred* is the second armed British war vessel that has ever ascended our river, the Thames; the first vessel of the class alluded to, being H. M.'s steamer *Mohawk*, which, in 1849, conveyed his Excellency Lord Elgin and suite, to the town of Chatham. In October, 1813, three gunboats of a foreign power, and on a hostile mission, did ascend the Thames but they never descended that river. Their remains now rest imbedded in the sands, and the iron balls, that were to spread havoc amongst the hearts and homes of the Canadian people in the old Western district, are now being occasionally fished up, to be exhibited as mementoes of a period in the history of our country, which produced great and good men, whose memory Canadians of the present day delight to honor.

We have no doubt, that if those brave spirits of half a century ago, had the presence on their side of so fine a boat as the *Prince Alfred*, manned and equipped with the skill of her present officers and men, a different page would occupy a position in Canadian history, than it at present contains. As to the future, we hope your mission may be one of peace; but, if it should be otherwise, we feel that the land force of our new fair Dominion, should have few more efficient, and valiant auxiliaries, than your noble vessel.

So far as the 24th Battalion, Kent is concerned, we feel, that we, officers of that Battalion, are, especially entitled to welcome your presence, since we have, on several occasions, had the pleasure of being on active service with the *Prince Alfred*, which enables us, the more accurately to testify to her general fitness for the service, and the thorough efficiency of her officers and crew.

Again, we most heartily welcome you, one and all, and may your stay in our midst be a pleasant one.

(Signed.)

DAVID SMITH, Lt. Col. Commander, 24th Batt.

A. B. BAXTER, Major.

JOHN J. J. THOMPSON, Capt. and Paymaster.

T. K. HOLMES, M. D. Surgeon.
JAMES T. RILEY, Captain and Adjutant.
H. G. REED, Lieut. and Quarter Master.
RUFUS STEPHENSON, Capt. No. 2 Company.
B. M. SMITH, Capt. No. 1 Company.
HARRY MENON, Lieut. No. 2 Company.
JAMES G. WILES, Ensign No. 1 Company.
G. K. ATKINSON, Ensign No. 2 Company.

To Captain WYATT. The officers and men of Her Majesty's gun boat *Prince Alfred*.

GENTLEMEN:

It is with pleasure, that the Members of the Board of Trade of the Town of Chatham welcome you, on this, your first visit to our harbor. It is a visit that we shall long remember, for many reasons, amongst which we may be permitted to mention a few.

1st. It is the second occasion on which a vessel of war belonging to Her Majesty's Government has been seen in our harbor.

2nd. It established beyond question, the fact, that vessels of the largest draft, sailing on our western waters, can navigate with safety our river, and can bring with them the products of the world, and can take from here the fruits of our industry.

3rd. But by no means the least, we feel a delight in honoring and welcoming to our midst those, whom it has pleased our Gracious Sovereign to honor. It is a matter of congratulation also to us, that you have come to remain during the winter, as it shows also, that our Government has not overlooked the importance of our harbour, a harbour that, we believe, has but few rivals, and none superior. We trust, that your association with our citizens during your stay amongst us, may be fraught with the most kindly feelings, and the warmest friendship, and the time may be far distant when you shall be obliged, at the call of duty, to lay aside the pleasant garb of peace, and assume the stern discipline of war.

Again, bidding you hearty welcome, we are

Yours etc.,

On behalf of the Board.

(Signed:)

A. W. SMITH, President.

N. B. MCINTOSH, Vice President.

SAMUEL BUTLER, Secretary.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday, the 14th Inst.

LONDON, Ont.—Eas. Thomas Peel, \$4.00.

ST. ANDREWS, Que.—Lieut. A. LeRoy, \$2.00.

MARKHAM, Ont.—Capt. Robert Reesor, \$1.00.

CAMPBELL'S CROSS, Ont.—Lieut. Peter H. McCollum, \$1.00.