

known to be interested in the subject. Of course some slight expense is thus entailed, and with no return in money. But there will be return in other ways, in exchange of publications from students receiving the pamphlets, in acquaintance with men of kindred tastes, and especially in the satisfaction that accompanies the performance of some useful and reasonably lasting work.

W. F. GANONG.

THE TRADITIONS OF THE BRITISH ARMY.

It has been charged against the British military authorities, and not apparently without reason, that the disasters experienced by our generals in South Africa during the month of December last were mainly due to two causes—first, underating the enemy and their mode of warfare, and second, an obstinate adherence to what are termed “the traditions of the British army.” The very large proportion of officers killed and wounded admittedly is due to an army tradition that an officer may not avail himself of cover when under fire to the same extent as his men.

History repeats itself on the battle field as elsewhere. The lessons of Bunker Hill and the battle of New Orleans have again been taught upon the battle fields of South Africa. As the story of British heroism is told and we read of the blood of British soldiers poured out as water at their country's call, we sadly recall the Frenchman's words “It is magnificent, but it is not war.” The policy of “taking the bull by the horns” is old as the battle of Bunker Hill. At Bunker Hill Colonel Abercrombie, who commanded the Grenadiers, and who lost his life in the action, advised General Howe to march his army around the hill, where the enemy were not nearly so well prepared for resistance and where their retreat must have been cut off;