This experience, so disastrous and humiliating, was not without its humorous inci-It chanced to 'me, as a volunteer denta. aide to have fine opportunities to observe the manner of the battle and to catch the expressions, and note the hearing of men and officers. And while "I will set down nought in malice," some of these things may, with out harm, see the light of day.

#### ELDER AS CHIEF OF ARTILLERY.

After Hamilton had been sent to the rear on account of his wounds, and Langdon had gathered up the broken pieces of his battery, I saw Elder frequently, and as I was on friendly terms with him, I watched him serving his pieces-in which I had a special interest-and talked with himsbout the bat tle. While the fight on our side was speaking strictly enough, a sort of general ongage ment, all arms of the service being engaged, we had, as I remember, no chief of artillery. Hamilton, I believe, would have had that position, and Langdon was next to him in seniority. Both of these, however, were out of the question. When the broken sections were, finally, ordered to the rear and into the road, the chiefs of pieces reported to Eider, where he and I were. I said some thing to him, and he asked me to "excuse" him, as he believed it looked 'as if he was him, as he believed it looked 'as if he was chief of artillery," and his promotion demanded that he devote his "whole attention to duty." And in the ruck of such a melee, he asked me if I didn't think it was a "distinguished honor" to be conferred on him. To my mind, he was the best man on the field that day. I had been in many engagements, and had connectunities, which engagements, and had opportunities, which I never failed to improve, to observe generals and subordinates, under fire and in exigent circumstances. I had always watchod for the "sang froid" of the traditional soldier. I rarely ever saw it. Men under fire are oppressed with the weight of stern and exacting solicitudes. They are frequently profane and generally excited, though not in the unsoldierly sense of "losing their heads;" but it is rare that one meets a spirit superior to all duty while fully performing it, that bearing itself steadily up to the standard of honor, still seems to be indifferent to the horrors and disagracable anxieties of actual battle. Colonel Ika Parker was some such spirit, though he was too cynical. Elder was, and I may say is, one of these. I do not mean that he would ever say "a little more grape, Captain Bragg," though if it were proper he might. Nor "the guard dies, it never surrenders." He, at such a time would, in all probability, have spoken as naturally and emphatically as Cambroune did at Waterloo'. But I say as Cambrouno did at Waterloo! But I saw and heard this. Seymour was sitting in his saddle statuesque, and like a general, his disaster looming upon him—over half his men hors du combat. He had lost artillery, and more than all, the ardent and friendly assistance and steady judgment of many of his most devoted and experienced officers. His broken lines were simply holding on. One resolute, concerted dush against them, and night itself, however dark and favorable, could not savo him. He was beaten, and almost helpless. I could see his sensitive spirit was depressed. He stroaked his goates impaciently, as if he wanted to do something with his hands. His exterior was screne, and even gracious, but he was in that peculiar frame of mind which comes particularly, I imagine, in this sense, to commanders, under terrible circumstances of disaster; and he seemed inclined to break through the reservo which hodges in tho general, and speak to some one in friendly was, it was an honor to have participated in it, confidence: Elder was close by, looking in I saw so much service there, and had so

things in his way, happy that his battery was intact, and Saymour said, "Elder, how does it look?" Twisting his mouth, as he always did, when he was about to sing

Oh! change the rings with me, my love, Oh! change the rings with me,"

and pointing with his long finger, to the huddling niggers on the left, Elder replied, "It looks d—d black in there." Seymour Seymour looked at him for an instant, and then everybody broke into a laugh. It did us a

power of good."
Later on, as the general discovered that Later on, as the general discovered that the enemy were massing with the evident purpose of capturing Elder's battery, he sent an aide to him with word that "the enemy are disposing for a charge, and to take precautions." The young gentleman who delivered this message, not contending himself with the elegant diction of the general, added, "if you don't look out they'll gobble you." Elder looked into the eye of the young man with a sort of superbaur. the young man with a sort of superb surprise that anybody should suppose that any enemy could "gobble" his battery with the Fortieth Massachusetts in support, and replied, "Present my compliments to the generaland tell himl'm looking for that gobbler."

I saw a gunner of one of the pieces struck in the left shoulder and frightfully mangled, As he fell across the trail of his gun, the only thing he had time to say before he died was, "Sight this piece," I remember Sergeant Fox told me he was a brave and

inteiligent soldier.

The main column, of our forces, reached the lines in front of Jacksonville, about the night of the 23rd of February. The rear guard reached there on the morning, I think, of the 25th. It has been claimed that the colored troops constituted the rear-guard, and I have seen, in many papers, pretended accounts of their valor in holding the enemy at bay, while the veteran troops escaped. To a soldier, however, discussion is unnecessary. The blacks were all raw troops, generally speaking. The rest of the command And it will not be believed were veterans, that troops commanded by Henry and Elder, Langdon and Hamilton, Stevens and Barton had a rear-guard of Infantry, not well drill ed, nor accustomed to fire, and commanded by captains and lieutenants.

A week after the battle I was one of a party who communicated with the enemy under flag of truce. Then we discovered that their cutire force was represented by them to be in excess of 10,000, though, to my recollection, they did not say howmany were ongaged I asked Captain Chisolm, of the Confederate service, who was then present, how many troops he judged we had? and lie replied that the prisoners said 5,000, but he believed we had not less than \$,000.

The battle was a desperate one. It was to some extent, a surprise, but one which, under the circumstances, we could only have been prepared for by holding the very posi-tion that the rebels held, and to have done this we should have seized it at the moment Gilemore resolved upon the subjugation of the State. This course would have necessitated an exaggeration of the command, doubling the troops detailed, and these wo did not have. It is no matter. The issue of the Florida campaign, no less than of the war, was being decided elsewhere. And upon our return to Jacksonville, after proper rest, we were embarked on transports, and rejoined the grand army, under Grant, from which our brigade had been separated after the battle of Gettysburg.

However disastrous the battle of Olustoe was, it was an honor to have participated in it,

many glimpses and passages of fun on that occasion, that it seems as if I might write a book about it, and still I leave much unsaid. REONTE.



DOMINION OF CANADA.

# RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

## ANNUAL PRIZE MEETING AT OTTAWA,

Tuesday, 7th of Sept., and following days.

STAFF OF THE ASSOCIATION.

Executive Committee of Council - Lieus. Cal-Brunel, Ottawa; Lieut. Col. Wily, Director Brunel, Ottawa; Lieut. Col. Wily, Director of Stores, Ottawa; Lieut. Col. Chamberlain, C.M.G., Ottawa; Lieut. Col. Ross, G.G. Foot Guards, Ottawa; Lieut. Col. Egleson, O. B. G. A., Ottawa; Lieut. Col. MacPherson, Ottawa; Lieut. Col. Stuart, Ottawa; Lieut. Col. Jackson, D.A.G. Militia, Brockville, Lieut. Col. Flotcher, C.M.G., D.A.G. Militia, Montreal, Lieut. Col. Rose, 74th Estation Montreal; Lant. Col. Beer, 74th Battalion, Sussex, N. ' .: Lieut. Col. Worsley, Brigado oussex, N. .; Licut. Col. Worsley, Brigado Major ontreal; Major McDonald, Ottawa; Capusin Tilton. G. G. Foot Guards, Ottawa; W. McKay Wright, Esq., M.P., Ottawa Field Battery Artillery, Ottawa; Captain Mason, 13th Battalion, Hamilton.

Secretary.—Lieut. Col. Stuart. Treasurer.—Lieut. Col. MacPherson.

Local Executive Committee.—Liout. Col. Brunel. Chairman; Lieut. Col. Wily, Director of Stores; Lieut. Col. Chamberlain, C.M.G.; Lieut. Col. Worseley, Brigade Major; Captain Tilton, G. G. Foot Guards:

Chief Executive Officer and Commandant of Camp.—Lieut. Col. Jackson, D.A.G., No. 4' Military District.

Chief of Statistical Department.—Lieut, Col. Bacon, Brigade Major.

Chief of Range Department.-Major White,

Governor General's Foot Guards.

Range Officers — Major Mattice, Brigado Major; Major Macdonald; Captain Perley, Engineers; Captain Muson, 13th Battalion. Camp Quartermuster .- Captain Grant, Gov-

ernor General's Foot Guards. Surgeon.—E. C. Malloch, M.D. Chief of Police.—E. J. O'Neil, Armourer.—Mr. H. Cawdron.

## PRIZE LIST.

### All Comers' Match.

Open to all members of this Association, whether by direct contribution or through Amiliated Associations.

1st, Prize. \$100
2nd " 50
3rd " 50
4th " 50 ith " 20
Prizes at \$10
Prizes at \$10
To be shot for in Two Stages.
1st Stage—Enfect or Snider Rafield Rifle; 2nd Stage, any rifle coming within Wimbledon regulations.

lations.

Ilanges—Ist Stages, 200 and 500 yards; 2nd Stage, 800 and 1,000 yards.

In the 1st Stage, Highest Score to receive....\$40

Second Highest, "20

15 next Highest, \$10 each.

Entrance Fee—Ist Stage, 50 cents. Position—Shoulder at 200 yards, and sany position at the other rances.

other ranges.

The Second Stoge to be fired for by the 60 competitions making the Highest score in the First Stage. Highest Score to receive \$100. Second Highest

Entracno Free-\$1.00 Ranges-800 and 1,000 parks. Seven rounds at each range. Any posi-

Dominion of Canada Match:

Open to all Certified Efficient members of Embodied Corps of Active Militia, and to members