

the volunteers, during the trying times of 1885, fulfilled the duty which was thrust upon them by the circumstances, and fulfilled that duty to the fullest extent, better even than could have been expected by their own countrymen. But the hon. gentleman stated that the honors which had been conferred by our Gracious Sovereign had merely been conferred upon the general who was in the field and the general who was in the western block. I have no manner of doubt that the hon. gentleman was not consulted by our Gracious Sovereign when she decided to confer upon those who had taken some part in the suppression of the troubles in the North-West the honors which have been conferred. The hon. gentleman went further, and said that this kind of thing cannot continue any longer. I have no doubt that, when our Gracious Sovereign reads the utterances delivered by the hon. gentleman to-day, she will be induced to change her mind, and, in sending out more honors, so as to avoid the possibility of making any mistake, will consult the hon. gentleman as to who should be the recipients of such honors and how many of those distinguished marks of her approbation should be sent to Canada. Now, Sir, the hon. gentleman also stated that he disapproved entirely of war medals having been granted by Her Majesty to those who took part in the suppression of the rebellion in the North-West. I am not surprised that the hon. gentleman should express himself in that way; I am not surprised that he should feel in that way. When the hon. gentleman displayed such energy in defending the rebellion and in defending rebels, it is hardly to be supposed that he should consider it fit and proper that medals should be given to those who took their lives in their hands and went up to the North-West to put down that very rebellion, and to put an end to the very troubles which the hon. gentleman has defended. I can only tell the hon. gentleman that, in so far as I am concerned personally, I attach the greatest importance possible to the manner in which those troubles were suppressed by our own people, by our own Canadian volunteers, and I attach also the greatest importance, as a Canadian, to the manner in which the distinguished services of our volunteers were recognised in England by our Sovereign, and rewarded by her. It may be that when the hon. gentleman takes up the returns, which will be brought down, he may find examples, not only in 1885, but during the troubles which the hon. gentleman has referred to, of the manner in which our Canadian volunteers have always behaved when called upon to defend their country and their flag. It is not a new thing to Canadians to know that Canadian volunteers, whenever called upon to defend their country, have done so in a manner creditable to both themselves and their country. I say again that I feel very proud, indeed, that the services which have been rendered by our volunteers have been recognised in so distinguished a manner. The hon. gentleman has spoken about other distinctions, and other honors being conferred. Well, I am not at all in the secrets of Her Majesty, I do not know whether she intends to confer further distinctions, or to give further rewards, for the services which have been rendered; but it seems to me that we should be grateful for those which have been so far conferred, when Her Majesty considered that it was due to the valor of the Canadian troops to have these medals struck in order to commemorate the manner in which they have fulfilled their duty to their country, and to herself as our sovereign.

Mr. GAULT. I was sorry to hear the hon. gentleman belittle the services of the volunteers who went to the front at the time of the Fenian raid. I may say that on that occasion four or five regiments went from Montreal, and my hon. friend for Montreal East (Mr. Coursol) took off his

gown and put on his sword, and marched out at the head of his regiment. I think that was a much more serious affair, perhaps, than that of the North-West, although the latter was at a much greater distance and more difficult to put down. But still our volunteers behaved at Pigeon Hill in the most noble manner, and I have always regretted that nothing was done to confer any mark of favor upon the men and officers who then went to the front. Many of them feel, and have felt to this day, I know, that they deserved some mark of recognition which they could have shown to their children and I think that if this had been done they would have prized it very highly. I regret exceedingly that nothing has ever been done by our Government in that respect. I desire to say, Sir, that I am very proud, indeed, of the conduct of our volunteers in the North-West. We all felt, the whole country felt, that they had gone forth on a most perilous expedition, and little did we know the perils they were to encounter. I am very glad we have a Minister at the head of the Militia Department, a young man, who was able to do the work so efficiently as he did; because a great deal depends on him and on his energy and his efforts. I am also proud that we had General Middleton to lead our troops, and glad to know that he displayed the greatest valor, while at the same time he did all he could to protect the men from danger, and both the Minister and General richly deserved the high honors conferred upon them by Her Majesty.

Sir RICHARD CARTWRIGHT. Before that motion passes, I would like to say a word or two. I do not precisely agree with my hon. friend in all the sentiments he has expressed. I am inclined to think that so long as we remain subjects of a monarchy, honorary distinctions of that kind, if they are freely and spontaneously tendered may fairly be accepted. But that is not a point, on which, for obvious reasons, I wish to prolong discussion. But I desire to say that I think the Ministry themselves will see, on reflection, that there is a good deal to be said for the views suggested by my hon. friend who moved this motion. We are bound, in these cases, to regard the custom of the service. Now the custom of the English service always has been that when any success was achieved in the field, the general officer in command was not the only one to receive a decoration. You must recollect, Mr. Speaker, that in cases of this kind our volunteers will feel themselves, to a certain extent, governed by the rules which prevail in Her Majesty's service, and had this thing happened in the regular service, there can be no doubt whatever that one conclusion could have been drawn, and that is, that the officer in command was the only one who deserved well of Her Majesty's Government. Now, I am quite sure that the Ministers, that this House and the country, will agree with me in saying that the officers and men who served on that occasion deserve all the recognition that their country could give them, and, by implication, that they deserve, I think, the usual recognition at the hands of Her Majesty's Government. Her Majesty is, of course, as the hon. member remarked, the fountain of honor, but being at a distance of three or four thousand miles she must derive her information from Her Majesty's advisers on this side of the ocean. I think, Sir, that when the Government comes to reflect they will see that, bearing in mind the custom of the English service, this omission to recognise any of these gallant men except the officer in command, has been, to say the least of it, unfortunate, and that it would be well that it should be remembered. It is a pity, I think, that it has not been remembered earlier. Now, I am quite aware that the distribution of honors of the kind is more or less invidious, is more or less troublesome, and it may well be said that it would give rise to a certain amount of heart-burning, and that it is unfortunate that anything of the sort should exist on such an occasion. But I submit that it is