

The regimental bowling team took the M.A.A. team handily into camp at the match on November 7th and 8th.

The reserves are booming this year, thanks to the new blood infused into the ranks. On the 17th inst., the anniversary of the organization of the regiment, a commemorative dinner is to be held.

Number Two Company held an oyster supper, followed by a smoking concert on the 11th.

Royal Scots.

The regimental band has been engaged to play at the Victoria rink this season.

"D" Company held its annual dinner at the Richelieu Hotel, Thursday, 6th, and a jolly gathering it was. Among those present were Lieut.-Cols. Strathy and Caverhill, Majors Ibbotson and Gault, Captains Cantlie (commanding), Foster, Fowles and Lydon, and Sergt.-Major Currie. During the evening Captain Cantlie presented each man with a photograph of the company on parade.

The battalion feels much honored at the appointment by His Excellency of Lieut.-Col. Strathy as extra A.D.C.

6th Fusiliers.

It is announced that the resignation of Captain Chambers, the adjutant of the regiment, has been sent in owing to the increased exactions of his profession upon his time. Captain Chambers has been ten years connected with the 6th Fusiliers, and all that time has been captain of the regimental rifle team, which won many coveted trophies while under his command. Previous to his connection with the Sixth he served in the ranks in No. 3 Company of the Victoria Rifles under Captains (now Lieut.-Cols.) Henshaw and Starke. Prior to that again, he served for several years in the old High School Cadets, passing through the ranks of corporal, sergeant, sergeant-major, 2nd lieutenant and lieutenant to that of captain, in which capacity he commanded the company which went to Quebec at the time of the big review before the late Duke of Albany and H.R.H. the Princess Louise. During the North-west rebellion he obtained leave from his regiment and went to the front as chief correspondent of the Montreal Star, having four other correspondents under his direction. He accompanied General Middleton throughout the entire campaign, with the exception of the steamboat trip from Prince Albert to Battleford, when he accompanied Lieut.-Col. Van Straubenzie's flying column via Fort Carlton. He was present at the battles of Fish Creek and Batoche, and for services rendered in the field was recommended for and obtained the medal and clasp as a special case. Up to the end of last year he commanded "F" Company, which at the last inspection under his command won the highest possible number of points for drill, the only company in Canada to do so. In 1887 Captain Chambers acted as adjutant of the 50th Huntingdon Borderers during Granby camp, and in 1889 as adjutant of the 60th Missisquoi Battalion at St. Johns camp, and the commanding officers of

both of these corps applied for Captain Chambers as adjutant when called out for their annual training. Captain Chambers holds both second and first-class special course certificates from the Royal School of Infantry, being at the head of a large class of attached officers when he obtained his first-class certificate.

The annual turkey shoot at the Morris tube ranges for a large number of prime birds presented by the thoughtful C. O. of the regiment, Lieut.-Col. Burland, is now going on, and there are a large number of competitors on hand every Wednesday and Saturday.

"F" Company association held its annual dinner Friday evening, December 7th. Lieut. W. B. Converse presided, and Col.-Sergt. Pratt occupied the vice-chair. The event was a success in every respect, the dinner being a good one, and the after dinner songs and speeches above the usual standard.

The Royal United Service Institution.

The historic pile known as the Banqueting House, Whitehall, so closely connected with one of the great tragedies of English history, is soon, says the *Morning Post*, to pass into the hands of new masters, and to enter on a fresh phase of existence. Her Majesty has graciously assigned the building to the use of the Royal United Service Institution, but as the space thus secured is insufficient, the Council have determined to add further accommodation on an adjoining site, a lease of which has been obtained from the Crown. This additional building is now practically complete, and the Institution may be thus congratulated on being suitably housed in a handsome structure of unique interest, situated in one of the finest thoroughfares of the metropolis. The history of the Banqueting House in one sense may be said to date much further back even than the time of the Stuarts, for though erected by Inigo Jones in 1619, it arose on the ashes of a considerably older palace which had at one time been the residence of Cardinal Wolsey, and was consumed by fire two years before the present building was completed. The elegant proportions of the latter are familiar to every Londoner, and will be recognized at once in any old print of Whitehall, towering above the humbler dwellings that long continued to hem it in. Striking though it is in appearance, it forms only a small part (Mr. E. M. Barry says one-fortieth) of Inigo Jones's original design, which included a palace with a frontage of 1,152 ft., and would, in all probability, have solved the problem of the accommodation of our public offices for many generations to come. But, like Sir John Soane's equally ambitious and undeniably tasteful designs for the Government offices south of Downing-street, Jones's project had to be relegated to the limbo of unsanctioned

schemes, which want of funds has at various times prevented the Government from carrying out. The Banqueting House itself cost £17,000 (of which Rubens received £4,000 for his decorated ceiling); so, *ex pede Herculem*, we can form some idea of the total sum which the complete design would have entailed. The present building was converted into a Chapel Royal by George I., and up to four or five years ago was devoted to public worship, while on the Thursday preceding every Good Friday the time-honoured ceremony of the distribution of the Maunday money took place within its walls. From this, and from the past glories of Whitehall Palace, "the most polite Court in Europe," as Walpole styled it, to the picturesque lumber of the United Service Museum—with its javelins and arquebuses, models of three-deckers, Brown Besses, and a thousand and one types of more or less obsolete armaments—the change is great indeed. Nevertheless, we cannot say for a moment that it is an unworthy one, for the objects of the Institution are such as touch our very existence as a nation.

It was in 1831 that a knot of officers of both services became persuaded of the necessity of some organisation for the special duty and encouragement of naval and military science and literature, and founded the present Institution as a concrete embodiment of their views. Since then the Institution has undergone gradual development, and at the present day forms a most useful adjunct to the naval and military services. Its famous museum contains specimens of weapons and accoutrements from all parts of the world, and models illustrative of the progress of naval architecture and of the manufacture of guns and small arms. In addition to the museum there are various useful departments. The topographical room contains a large number of maps, plans, and charts, and during the progress of any military operations the positions of the contending armies are there shown on large-scale maps. There is a library of more than 20,000 volumes in various languages on professional, scientific, and historical subjects, and a lecture theatre where papers are read and discussed, and also many charitable societies connected with the Army and Navy hold their general meetings. It is, however, the *Journal* which gives the Institution the strongest claim to general support, for in this work are published the papers read in the lecture theatre, together with the ensuing discussions. Part also of each number is devoted to papers which have not been read at the Institution, and to translations and reviews of foreign and other publications on naval and military questions. It will be seen from this that the United Service Institution plays a most useful and, indeed, necessary part in the organisation of our national defences, and one need only turn to the present course of events in the Far East to convince oneself that in the matter of armaments and tactics we of all people in the world cannot afford to relax a studious vigilance. If it be true, as Continental critics allege, that military questions as viewed in England are matters for the specialist rather than for the general public, it is to the influence of the United Service Institution and to its healthy ventilation of such questions that we must look to correct the popular indifference. We heartily commend the cause of this society, and their appeal for funds which the enlargement of the building has necessitated, to the favourable consideration of our readers, for with better accommodation for its various departments there is every prospect that the Institution will enter on a career of increased usefulness.