

“Sergeant-Major Parsons,—It has been a pleasant duty on several occasions previous to this to acknowledge and thank you, on behalf of the Civil Service Rifles, for the interest in, and trouble you have taken with that Corps for the past 15 months as their Drill Instructor.

“Your recent promotion to the rank of Sergeant Major of the 4th Battalion of the 60th Rifles has necessarily deprived us of your active services as our Drill Instructor, but in acknowledgment of your utility to us in that capacity, the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the Civil Service Rifles avail themselves of this auspicious occasion, on which the Volunteer Force of Quebec is paraded, to present you with a sword and sword-belt.

“You will, at all times, be reminded by it of your regiment and of ourselves. The blade is on one side inscribed ‘60th, the Kings Royal Rifles,’ and on the reverse, ‘Presented to Sergeant-Major W. J. B. Parsons, 4th Battalion, 60th Rifles, by the Civil Service Volunteer Rifles of Canada, 1863.’

“It is the hope of that corps, and of myself, that you may long live to wear it.”

To which Sergeant-Major Parsons, under the full influence of a soldier’s feeling, replied in the following terms:—

“*Major Bernard, and Gentlemen of the Civil Service Rifles,*

“A soldier is seldom prized for oratory, but rather for his deeds,—frequently incapable of ex-