

companion, who does not insist on perpetual monologue, but leaves you open to pleasant memories set to music of fairy bells. They do not rudely insult, they entice the ear. There is a delicate, persistent jingle-jangle, and through my brain goes galloping on—

“How they tinkle, tinkle, tinkle,
In the icy air of night!
While the stars that oversprinkle
All the heavens seem to tinkle

With a crystalline delight;
Keeping time, time, time,
In a sort of Runic rhyme
To the tintinabulation that so musically wells
From the bells.”

For, indeed, “the sleigh-drive through the frosty night,” which is one of the imaginative joys of “Snow Bound,” can have no more musical accompaniment than the chimney tinkle of these fairy bells. PASTOR FELIX.

THE SIXTH FUSILIERS.

Presentation of a New Stand of Colors by the Ladies of Montreal—
Annual Inspection by Major-General Herbert.

Saturday, the 6th June, 1891 was a red letter day in the history of the Sixth Fusiliers, Montreal. To a British regiment, whether of the line, of the militia or of the volunteers, the presentation of new colours is an event of peculiar interest and becomes a distinct landmark in the annals of the corps; and while the battalion of which we now write has had a comparatively peaceful history since its formation (although not more so than its sister regiments), its record during the last thirty years has continually shown an eagerness to take a prominent part in any service of danger or trouble for which necessity arose. The views which we present to-day of the recent presentation of new colours to this corps will, we are sure, be found of interest not only to present members of the regiment, but to its many friends, its old members, and those who are in any way interested in Canadian military matters.

The ceremony took place on the afternoon of Saturday, the 6th June; the weather was bright and clear, and although warm, not painfully oppressive; while the presence of the enormous crowd of spectators who witnessed the presentation added much *clat* to the scene and reminded one of the reviews of days long gone by. The battalion mustered in the drill hall, and about four o'clock marched on to the parade ground, headed by its pioneers and fife and drum bands. The muster was a fairly strong one, although not as large as the importance of the ceremony deserved, and as has been seen on previous occasions; any deficiencies on this score were, however, more than made up by the excellent appearance of the men in their scarlet uniforms with white facings, unique in Canada's militia, and precisely similar to that worn by Her Majesty's regular troops. Lieut.-Col. Massey was in command; the field and staff officers were as follows:—Majors Mooney and Burland; Adjutant, Major Atkinson; Paymaster, Major Seath; Quartermaster, Capt. McLaren; Surgeon, Dr. Bell; Assistant-surgeon, Dr. Kemp; the total number of officers and men on parade was 307. The pioneers looked remarkably well and imposing, as pioneers should look, while both bands played very creditably. After marching on the parade ground the regiment formed line, awaiting the arrival of the Major-General and his staff, who did not keep them long; the staff consisted of Lieut.-Col. Houghton, Lieut.-Col. Mattice, Capt. Streetfeild and Major Strathy. After the usual salute the regiment was put into open column of companies, and in that formation inspected by Major-General Herbert, who closely scrutinized every man in the ranks. The trooping of the old colours (one of the great events of the day) was then proceeded with and executed very well, considering the limited time at the disposal of the corps for practising a movement which requires so much study and careful drill: the slow march was really the only weak feature of the movement. “A” Company acted as the escort to the colours, which were marched out to the tune of “Auld Lang Syne.” On the conclusion of the trooping, the regiment was formed into three sides of a square, the drums were piled in the orthodox manner in the centre and the new colours, encased, were borne to the front by Staff-Sergeants Edwards and Pike, and placed against the drums, the Queen's on the right and the Regimental on the left. The colours were then uncased, and the religious part of the ceremony was proceeded with, the officiating clergymen being the Rev. Dr. Norton, the Rev. Canon Ellegood and the Rev. S. Massey, regimental chaplain, duly robed. They placed themselves in the centre of the square, facing the colours, on the other side of which stood the Major-General, at attention, and with head uncovered. The consecration services were then proceeded with, after which the clergymen retired and the new flags were handed by the Majors to Mrs. Massey, who requested Major-General Herbert to make the official presentation on behalf of the ladies interested. On bended knee, the two junior regimental subalterns, Lieutenant Mit-

chell and Lieutenant Finlay, were entrusted respectively with the Queen's and regimental colours, which from that moment became incorporated in the regimental life and surrounded by a degree of interest and reverence that none but soldiers can feel. Immediately after the presentation the Major-General addressed the officers as follows:—

“Lieut.-Col. Massey and officers of the Sixth Fusiliers, I have been entrusted to-day with a duty that I feel to be the highest honour that can be conferred on any soldier. In presenting these handsome colours to the regiment, it is right I should tell you something of what they represent. Every soldier knows they represent the sacred trust that your Queen and country put in you as her and its defenders. The insignia at the top tells you what you have to look to, and every soldier should know that he is bound to salute his colours before anything else. Of the ladies who have so kindly presented these colours to your regiment I cannot speak too highly, and it ought, and no doubt will, bring to your minds thoughts of home and country and those that are nearest and dearest to you whenever you see your colours.”

Lieut.-Col. Massey replied in the following words:—
“General Herbert and ladies, I beg to tender you our most sincere thanks for the high honour paid to the regiment this day. I can assure you, General Herbert and ladies, that this honour is highly appreciated by all of us, and you may rest assured that no act of this regiment will ever bring discredit on the colours which we are all so proud to receive, as it will be our constant endeavour to maintain in the future, pure and unsullied, the reputation held during the twenty-nine years which have elapsed

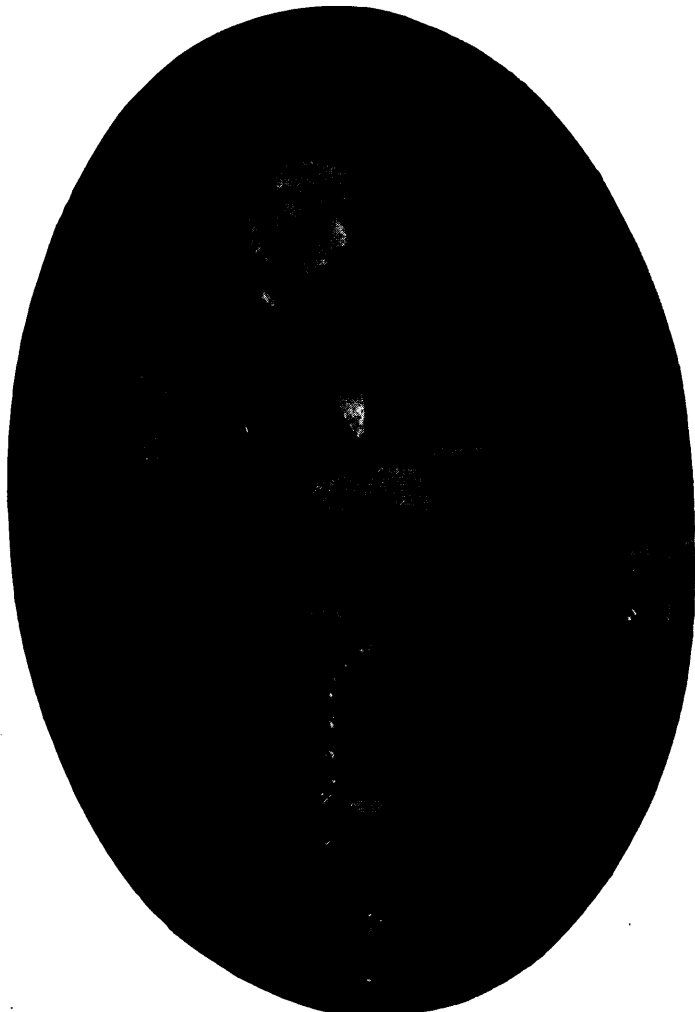
“since the old colours were presented to the regiment. You have referred, General Herbert, to the insignia of the colours and the connection which they represent towards Her Majesty, and you may rely upon it that this regiment, as well as all others in Canada, will do their utmost to continue that connection in the future that we have enjoyed in the past, and these colours will always remind us of the allegiance due to the Sovereign of our land.”

The grand event of the day was now over, but the hard work was to follow. The inspection commenced with the usual cut-and-dried march past in column, quarter column and in double time, all of which remarkably useful movements were done in good style. Line to the left on the rear company was then formed, and the junior Major put the battalion through the manual and firing exercise, which was not a marked success. Lieut.-Col. Massey then took hold of the regiment and worked it for some time in general battalion movements, all of which were done with a degree of precision and vigour which constituted a good lesson to some of our Rifle battalions. At the conclusion of these manoeuvres, the usual advance in review order was made, after which a three-sided square was formed, and the Major-General addressed the battalion, expressing his appreciation of the manner in which they had gone through the movements. The line was re-formed and the corps marched off the parade in fours, and, headed by the General and his staff, marched through the principal streets of the city, making a remarkably brave show, the new colours being borne for the first time; on again reaching the Drill Hall the regiment was dismissed.

The new colours were presented by a number of ladies of the city, assisted by ladies from other places, who had expressed a special wish to help in this matter.

The Queen's colour is the regulation Union Jack, with the number of the regiment in Roman letters, and with the Imperial crown over all. The regimental colour is St. George's cross in red, on a white field, with a small Union Jack in the upper left hand corner; the centre of the cross is richly ornamented by the regimental device and motto, with a wreath of roses, thistles and shamrocks surrounding it, and supported by the Canadian national emblems,—the beaver and maple leaf. All are beautifully worked on the silk in rich colours, with a heavy gold fringe two inches in depth, and are remarkably imposing in every way; the poles are surmounted by the Imperial crown.

We congratulate the Sixth Fusiliers on their acquisition, and hope that it may be effective in maintaining and increasing that high degree of efficiency for which the regiment is noted.



LORD MOUNT-STEPHEN.
(Notman, photo.)