

moment seems to have been chosen when all hands were busy cleaning up their arms and accoutrements. Having since been ordered to the front, the 7th may yet be in time to participate in the dangers and honors of the campaign. We believe that exception has been taken by some of our readers in London to the illustration of the battalion at Port Arthur which appeared in our pages last week, on the ground that the men were represented as wearing the proper forage cap of a fusilier instead of the glengarries which it appears the corps has not discarded since assuming its new appellation. However, if the regulation usage has not been observed in London, we can only express our regret that we should have assumed it was, and beg to repudiate the slightest intention of caricaturing one of the finest battalions in the Canadian militia service.

THE BATTLE OF CUT KNIFE CREEK.

THOUGH the accounts of this engagement by the different correspondents necessarily vary somewhat in the details, it is agreed by all of them that Otter's gallant three hundred, composing the flying column with which he visited Poundmaker's reserve, very narrowly escaped an ambushade that might have resulted in dire disaster. One of the most concise and intelligent narratives of this affair appeared in the *Montreal Witness*, as follows:

All went well until we reached Cut Knife Creek, about five o'clock in the morning, where there was a gully which we found extremely awkward and difficult to cross. It was full of brushwood, and rocks projected through the banks, making the descent and ascent difficult. We had just got through the most dangerous spot in time, as it proved; for the Mounted Police, who were in advance, had just gained the turf slope which leads up from the west brow of the gully, on the ground where Poundmaker once defeated Cut Knife's Sarcees, and therefore knew the ground well, when they were met by a well-directed fire of the Indians who, it appears, had arrived just too late to take up their position in the gully. One of the Mounted Police fell, and several were wounded here at this time. The Indians charged down upon the Mounted Police, evidently with the intention of yet gaining the gully, but, although nine of their number got within thirty yards of them, they were driven back, and the guns being brought up to the brow, opened upon them and they retreated across the open ground. With desperate bravery they charged again, firing as they came, and so fierce was their attack that the artillery was forced to retreat, some of the men receiving bad wounds at this time. At noon the trails of the gun carriages were broken down under the hard usage to which they had been subjected, or we would have smashed the enemy much more completely than we had already done. Before the guns were disabled two tepees were destroyed by them and also many Indians. The enemy then succeeded in occupying the gully in considerable numbers and held it stubbornly despite the fire of our gatling. The Queen's Own, Ottawa Guards and Battleford Rifles succeeded in chasing them out of the coulee or gully to the right, and the scouts, despite the galling fire to which they were exposed, cleared the trail across the gully in our rear. The trail across the gully was thus re-opened, and the teams with the waggon were enabled to re-cross the creek to the prairie where we intended camping. The troops then withdrew across the creek leisurely and in good order, the rear guard descending with admirable steadiness and as if on parade, with the result of not losing a single man in the operation.

Our artist has chosen to illustrate the engagement at the point where the artillery are wheeling round to regain a position of vantage, the enemy being in the meantime held in check by the Mounted Police, under Superintendent Herchmer, who did splendid service here. The gatling, by all accounts, saved the day for our side, as both the field-pieces became disabled. It should be understood that these were not nine-pounder guns of the M.L.R. pattern, such as were taken up by B. Battery, from Kingston, but seven-pounder mountain howitzers that have been in possession of the Mounted Police for a good many years, and were doubtless considerably the worse for wear and their numerous journeys. The limber has shafts for a single horse, and this class of gun, which is mounted on a low carriage, is drawn by two or three horses, harnessed tandem, each having its own mounted driver. The gun shown at the head of the column is the gatling. In the background the infantry, consisting of a detachment of the Queen's Own, with the company of Foot Guards and Battleford Rifles, are seen jumping from their wagons, and extending so as to form a fighting line.

MAJOR T. CHARLES WATSON,

Who was recently sent to Yorkton, Assiniboia, to organize the settlers of the York Farmers' Colonization Company for local defence, comes of an old military family in

England, and entered the army at the age of seventeen, obtaining his commission as ensign in the 56th Foot, which obtained the soubriquet of "Pompadours." Two years later he went with his regiment to India, where he served many years. On his return from foreign service he was appointed instructor of musketry at Hythe and Aldershot, and holds a first-class certificate. Being so tall (6ft. 2½in.) he was assigned to the grenadier company of his regiment, for formerly every battalion had a "grenadier" company, composed of the tallest and heaviest men, and a "light" company, composed of the most active and best shots, familiarly designated the "light bobs." These distinctions have, however, long since been abolished. In the 56th, the grenadier company consisted of one hundred men, varying from 6ft. to 6ft. 3in., in stature—a fine sight on parade. Capt. Watson sold out of the service in 1872, and subsequently filled the important post of adjutant to the Prince of Wales' Rifles, Montreal, for two years. On being selected by the Minister of Militia for special service at Yorkton, he was gazetted to the rank of major. Since his arrival he writes in good health and spirits, having found the settlers a fine hardy body of men, whom it is a satisfaction to command, while he himself has met with general appreciation and hearty co-operation at all hands, and has also gained the warm approval of Mr. N. Clarke Wallace, M.P. president of the company, and Mr. Armstrong, managing director.

MRS. T. CHARLES WATSON,

Whose portrait graces our pages this week, is the wife of the officer whose career forms the subject of the above sketch. While he is serving the country in the North-West, she is interesting herself in the congenial undertaking of augmenting, by the exercise of her peculiar talents, the local volunteer supply funds. The *Ottawa Citizen* of the 8th inst., says:—

It is a long time since so large and at the same time so fashionable an audience has assembled in the Grand Opera House as that which filled it last evening, on the occasion of the benefit entertainment given by Mrs. T. Charles Watson for the benefit of the North-West Soldiers' Fund. This is not to be wondered at when one considers the well-deserved reputation as an elocutionist of the lady who so patriotically offered her services, and the cause toward the aid of which those services were given. Among those who were present at this unique entertainment were His Excellency the Governor-General and Lady Lansdowne, His Worship the Mayor and Mrs. McDougall, the members of the City Council, Lady Macdonald, Lady Macpherson, Lady Melgund, Lady Tilley, Madame Caron, Mrs. Middleton, Mrs. Clemow, Mrs. Grant, Mrs. C. H. Mackintosh, Madame Tasse, Mrs. Tilton, Mrs. Perley, and the members of the Ladies' Aid Association. In short, the house was filled with one of the most brilliant audiences that had ever assembled within its walls. The setting of the stage was simply magnificent. Rows of beautiful exotics were placed at the footlights, and the proscenium was appropriately decorated with bunting and trophies composed of bayonets. The stage represented a richly furnished drawing room, furnished and decorated in the most æsthetic manner. Of the entertainment provided by Mrs. Watson it is impossible to speak in too high a manner.

The *Free Press* says:—It is impossible to speak too highly of the merits of Mrs. Watson's entertainment, whose powers as an elocutionist are so widely known and so universally appreciated. Her versatility as a reader and reciter is of the very highest order, and she fairly surpassed herself last evening and won the audience captive by her magnificent elocutionary efforts. The Guards band, under the leadership of Mr. Bonner, contributed in a great measure to the success of the entertainment, their many selections being rendered faultlessly. Mrs. Watson appeared during the first part of the programme in the elegant costume in which she made her debut in Chickering Hall, New York, and afterwards changed it for a magnificent robe made by Worth, the man milliner and dressmaker, of Paris.

We should hardly have ventured to devote so much space to an occurrence which had chief interest for Ottawa, except that, as it is said Mrs. Watson contemplates visiting Toronto and several other cities in continuation of her patriotic efforts, the result of her first step in that direction has more than local significance. The papers of New York, where this lady has resided for two years, speak in the highest terms of her personal attractions and elocutionary talents. The *Tribune* says, "the press of Canada has not over-praised her beauty and her charms. She is a handsome woman, and her natural talents are remarkable." Should she visit Toronto, we venture to promise to all who appreciated the entertainments of Mrs. Scott Siddons an evening of equal and enjoyment.

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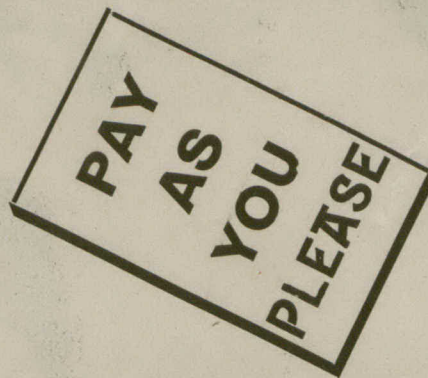
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