

from the face of death if there lies their post of duty.

"I have much pleasure in handing over to your safe keeping these colors, in full confidence that you will be *Semper paratus* to defend them."

Major Skinner was in command of the 13th on the occasion, and he made reply as follows:

"Mrs. Buchanan,

"MADAM,—In the name, and on behalf of the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the 13th Battalion Royal Canadian Volunteer Militia, I thank you for your very beautiful gift.

"Imbued with feelings of devoted loyalty to our beloved Queen, we have, at the call of her representative in this province, associated ourselves together for the purpose of acquiring a knowledge of the use of arms, not for mere pastime or parade, but to enable us to do our duty as men, should ever our services be required in defence of the British Empire on this continent. We know not what the future has in store for us; we pray for peace, but should it be the will of the All-wise Disposer of events to afflict our beloved country with the horrors of war, I feel every confidence in assuring you that the 13th Battalion will be found ready to do battle for our Queen and country, whether assailed by foreign enemies or domestic traitors.

"I would again thank you, Madam, for those splendid colors. I trust they will be the means of inspiring us with renewed energy and attention to our duties, and I confidently express the hope that so long as an officer or man of this regiment can wield a weapon in their defence, they shall remain unsullied from the stain of dishonor."

Two days after the 13th received their colors, the regiment made

their first appearance at a review, which was held in Brantford, when General Napier had no less than 3,500 men under arms. Of these 1,000 bayonets were British Regulars, and the remainder were Canadian Militia. It is evidence of the splendid state of efficiency the regiment was in, even at that early date, that only two officers were absent from the parade, each company, with but two exceptions, and these unavoidable, having its captain lieutenant and ensign present with it. Such efficiency is worthy of being recorded, for it must be borne in mind, that in those days the Canadian Militia was by no means a very popular force. It had not become fashionable then as it is now, and many people laughed and jeered at those, both officers and men, who accepted commissions or joined its ranks, saying, "It was playing at soldiers," with other remarks of a derisive or deprecatory nature.

*Nous avons change tout cela.* Now the mere fact that a man belongs to the Militia is considered a credit to him, people no longer talk about "playing at soldiers," they recognize the public spirit and patriotism that induces men to give up their leisure and their means to pro-

vide for the due and proper defence of their country.

Lieutenant-Colonel Buchanan retired from the command of the 13th on December 30th, 1864, and was succeeded by Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Booker, who had entered the Militia as a subaltern in the Hamilton Field Battery some nine years previously. Lieutenant-Colonel Booker's appointment was dated January 27th, 1865.

Lieutenant-Colonel Booker retained the command until August 10th, 1866, and was followed by Lieutenant-Colonel James Skinner, who for more than twenty years was the commanding officer. On the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel Skinner, he was succeeded by Hon. J. M. Gibson, under whom the regiment attained a degree of efficiency alike creditable to itself and to the force of which it forms a part. Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson retired from the active command at the close of the drill season of 1895, having served in the regiment for over thirty years. So great was the estimation in which Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson's services were held, that he was, on his retirement, not only allowed to retain his rank, but was appointed honorary lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, a

Frontier duty came to an end in the autumn of 1865, the last company of the 13th which had been on duty having been stationed at Windsor, commanded by Captain A. E. Irving.

In the early part of 1866, there were many rumors throughout the country that the Fenians, who had congregated in large numbers in the Northern States, contemplated an invasion of this province. The 13th, in conjunction with the great mass of the Militia of the province, were called out for active service on March 8th, 1866, and remained embodied, performing the regular routine of drill and duty appertaining to a British regiment of the line, until March 28th, when the daily duties were dispensed with by an order from the Major-General commanding, though two days' drill per week was still required of the battalion.

Hamilton at this time presented very much the appearance of being in a state of siege; a guard, consisting of one officer, two non-commissioned officers, and twenty-four men, were on the drill sheds, a sergeant and a guard of twelve men were mounted daily at the artillery sheds, while at the Mountain View Hotel a guard under command of an officer was stationed daily.

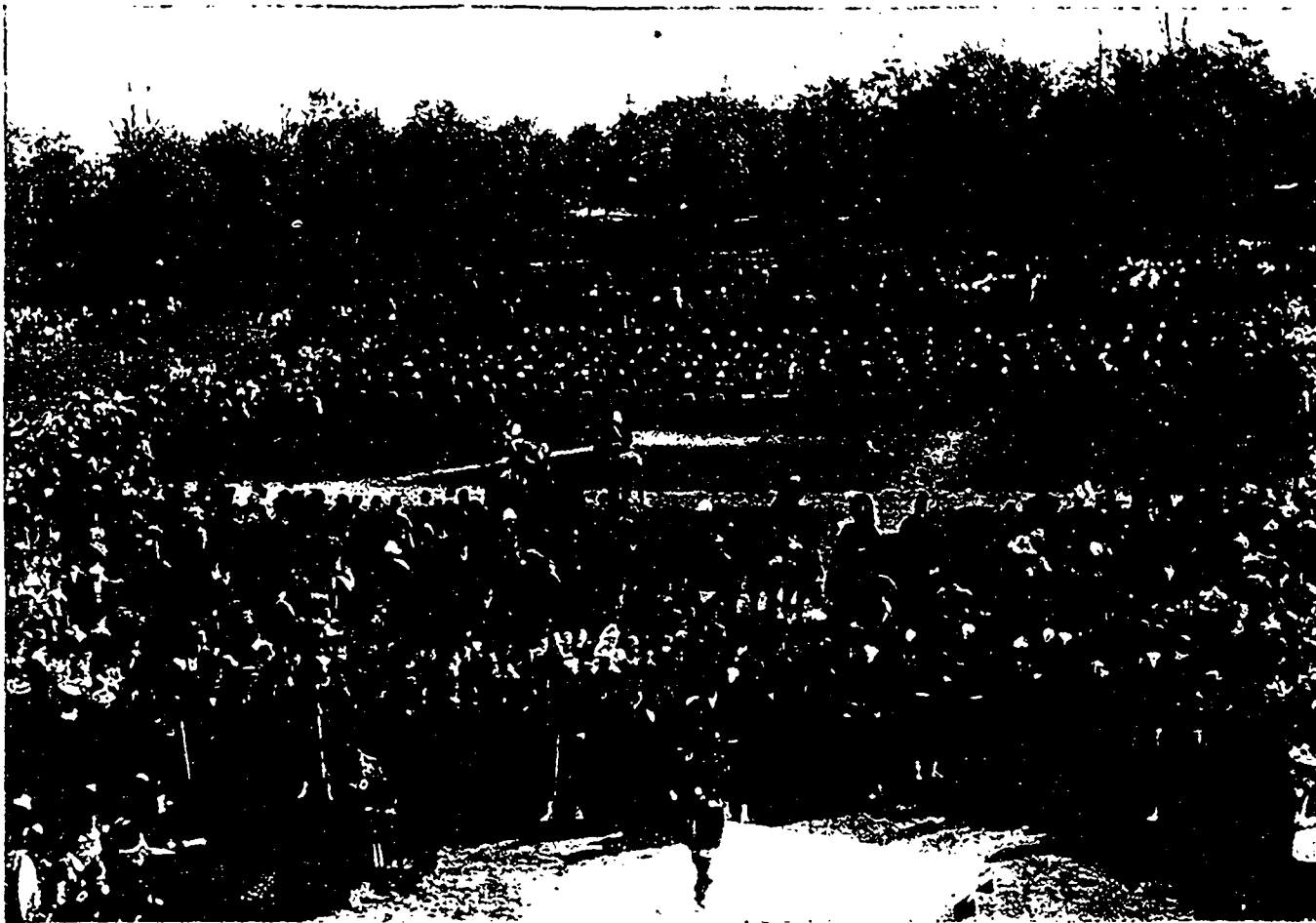
In the beginning of April, the fears of an invasion by the Fenians had subsided, and matters, not alone in Hamilton, but also throughout the province, were progressing as usual. This state of things, though, was not destined long to continue, for the month of June had barely commenced when the cry, "To Arms!" "To Arms!" rang throughout the length and breadth of this fair province.

The Fenian Raid took place on June 2nd, 1866, and the 13th took part with the Queen's Own Rifles and 10th Royals of Toronto in repel-

ling the invasion. The 13th formed part of the force who met the Fenians at Ridgeway, being brigaded with the Queen's Own Rifles under Lieutenant-Colonel Booker. That this engagement ended as it did was no fault either of the Queen's Own Rifles, the 13th, or the officer in command. So gallantly did the 13th advance that the Fenians believed they, the 13th, were British regulars, and were on the point of retiring, when some one raised the cry, "Prepare for cavalry." Instantly the attacking party were formed into squares, so as to meet the expected onslaught of the mounted force. The Fenians at once took advantage of the mistake, and, as the Queen's Own Rifles and 13th stood in square, poured a murderous fire upon them, whereby some were killed and more wounded.

Under such circumstances, seasoned troops might well be excused for wavering, and it is not remarkable that the attacking body, in this case, were compelled to retreat and fall back upon their supports.

The officers of the 13th, present at Ridgeway, were: Lieutenant-Colonel Booker; Majors, Skinner and Cattley; Captains, Watson, Askin and



BAYONET EXERCISE AT DUNDURN, 1896.

distinction rendered all the more valuable as it had not previously been granted to any retiring commanding officer of any regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel Gibson's successor was Lieutenant-Colonel Moore, who was first gazetted to the corps on September 14th, 1866. Under him the regiment fully retained its prestige and the *esprit de corps* of the battalion was in no wise lessened.

To resume the regimental history, the first service—apart from the usual routine of drill and parade—the 13th Battalion experienced was in April, 1865, when a company, drawn from the various companies composing the regiment, was sent on frontier duty, and stationed at Prescott under the command of Major Cattley, who had as his subalterns, Lieutenant Watson and Ensign Jamieson. This company remained on duty until November, and during the whole time they were embodied no serious charge was made against a single man. There were trifling offences, no doubt, but anyone who knows anything of the rigor of "good order and military discipline" in a camp, will understand how a very trifling misdemeanor in itself may constitute a breach of discipline, consequently a military crime.