

claim it all as their own. As the smoke cleared it was not difficult to see the reason. The ships had gained the mouth of the estuary during the fight, and there about four miles out to sea was the Leda's consort bearing down under full sail to the sound of the guns. Capt. de Milon had done his part for one day and presently the Gloire was drawing off swiftly to the north, while the Dido was bowling along at her skirts rattling away with her bow-chasers, until a headland hid them from view.

The Leda lay sorely stricken with her mainmast gone, her bulwarks shattered, her mizzenmast and gaff shot away, her sails like a beggar's rags and a hundred of her crew dead and wounded. Close beside her a mass of wreckage floated upon the waves. It was the stern-post of a mangled vessel and across it in white letters on a black ground was printed "The Slapping Sal."

"By the Lord, it was the brig that saved us!" cried Mr. Wharton. "Hudson drew her into action with the Frenchman and was blown out of the water by a broadside."

The two officers looked down at the sinister name and at the stump of wreckage which floated in the discolored water. Something black washed to and fro beside a splintered gaff and a tangle of halliards. It was the outrageous ensign and near it a scarlet cap was floating.

"He was a villain, but he was a Briton," said the captain at last. "He lived like a dog, but he died like a man."—A. Conan Doyle, in the *Atlanta Constitution*.



ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE CLUB.

Office of the secretary-treasurer, Quebec, 24th November, 1893. Official communication No. 3, 1893.

No. 1, Annual Meeting.—The annual meeting will be held on Saturday, the 24th of February, at the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, Ont.

No. 2, Annual Dinner.—The annual dinner will be held on the evening of the above date. Notification of place will be given at the annual meeting.

Members connected with the Army or Militia are requested to appear at the Dinner in the Mess uniform of their respective corps.

Members are requested to notify the Secretary if it is their intention of being present or not, in order that all arrangements may be completed.

By Order, Ernest F. Wurtele, Captain R.L. Hon. Secretary-Treasurer, Royal Military College Club of Canada.

OUR FLAG.

On Hiawatha's Banner.

Should you ask me, whence this banner?
Whence this multifarious mixture,
This superb, heraldic streamer,
With the colors of the rainbow,
With the forms of things fantastic,
Things with frequent repetitions,
Conformations isomorphous,
And their weird and wild appearance?

To you I would give this answer:
From the plains beyond the forests,
From the ever-rolling deep sea,
From the ships that sail upon it,
From the fish that swim within it,
From the lands beyond the ocean,
From the flags of other nations.

Long ago (the date forgotten),
The great Genius of Construction
Made a banner for the people,
Made a banner more than glorious
In its shape, and size, and color!
Thus he gave unto the nation,
That which baffled comprehension,
That which never would be remembered.

On the red field of the banner
There he placed a great escutcheon,
Leaves of oak and maple round it,
And a crown of gold upon it.

In the shield's emblazoned glory
There were many curious figures,
Quintly strange, this wondrous fabric,
There were lions, prowling lions,
Yellow lions on a red ground,
Beasts of prey from Africa's desert;
And a white fish from the blue sea;
And a bison from the prairie.
On the water was a great ship,
Antique galleys of the ancients,
Sailing in the yellow sunlight,
Fleurs-de-lis from French gonfalon;
Thistle-tops from Scottish borders;
Maple leaves from out the forest;
Crosses twain, of ruddy color.

This, the banner of our country,
This, the model composition,
Which for years has been our emblem!
Yet with all this gleam of color,
And these quaint and curious figures,
We would fain seek out another
Symbol to replace the "totem"
On the flag of our Dominion.

Not the grim, heraldic lion,
Not the flower-de-luce, nor bison,
Neither fish, nor vessel olden,
Nor the stiff, repellant thistle;
But the old, beloved emblems,
These: the Maple Leaf and Beaver
On the grand old British Ensign.
Galt, Nov. 10. ST. GEORGE.

Soldier Stories.

Doing The Best.—When the 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards were ordered for duty during the recent coal riots, the men left their plumes behind them, as they always do when going on active service. So the colonel, wishing to let the men show themselves off, telegraphed to his adjutant for 100. A telegraphist, thinking plums were wanted, sent the telegram asking for "plums" instead of plumes. The adjutant replied "Am sending 100 greengages, the best I can do"—*United Service Gazette*.

The Canadian Flag.

What is the National Flag of Canada? Who can describe it accurately? How many of our readers know what flag our ships can fly upon the seas and why if they hoisted a blue or a white flag with the Union Jack in the corner they could be overhauled by a man-of-war and the flag pulled down? These and many other interesting questions are answered in an article which will appear in the *Canadian Almanac* for 1894, to be published next month. The *Canadian Almanac* is a standard publication and goes everywhere. More than one million copies have been sold since it was first published.

Prizes for Rifle Competition.

The *Military Gazette* is and always has been supported principally by shooting men whose organ it has always been, and whose interest it is always ready and eager to champion. Wishing to do something on its own account to help the riflemen, the new owners of this paper have decided to offer a handsome prize for competition to any regiment or company in Canada. In doing this they are not trying to pose as philanthropists; they have a selfish object, as well as the promotion of rifle shooting in view. This object is to increase the usefulness of the paper and enlarge its field, by increasing its circulation. The more subscribers we have the better our paper will be.

The conditions then on which we will present these prizes are: 1st. Eight names are to be sent us, of members of your regiment, who are not at present subscribers to our paper, and who want to receive it. 2ndly. Sixteen dollars, the amount of the eight subscriptions for one year must accompany the names and these will receive the *Gazette* for one year.

The prize will then be forwarded all charges prepaid to any address in Canada, to be competed for by the Regiment thus qualified, all conditions of shooting, etc., to be settled by the committee of its rifle association, and the result and full details of the match to be forwarded for publication to this paper.

You will be astonished to find how many of your officers and shooting men, who would be much interested by our paper and to whom it would be of much practical use, do not subscribe for it. The following is a list of the prizes from which you may make a selection:

The Roll Call, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Quatre Bras, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Balaklava, by Mrs. Butler, size of frame 30 by 42 inches; Pour La Patrie, by L. Boyer, size of frame 27 by 36 inches, or the pair; Trompette de Dragon, Detaille, size of frame 22 by 82 inches; Chasseur a Cheval, de Neuville, size of frame 22 by 28 inches. The pair are beautifully colored engravings, while the other pictures are in black and white, and all are the work of Messrs. Boussod, Valadon & Co., Paris, successors to the world renowned house of Goupil.

For a Mess Room or Armory no picture could be more suitable. Do you not think that your officers and men would be glad to get for your regimental matches, a prize worth fully \$12 at practically no cost to themselves?