

the enemy and cutting through their lines of communication.

It was while with this little band guarding stores at Beaver Dam, that he was warned, through the intrepidity of that heroic woman, Laura Secord, of an attempt by the enemy to capture his detachment. By a judicious disposal of his forces he led the Americans to believe themselves surrounded, and then, boldly summoning them to surrender, had the satisfaction of taking as prisoners of war the entire detachment of six hundred men, with artillery, sent under Col. Boerstler to capture him. This remarkable exploit gained him a captaincy.

At the close of the war FitzGibbon received various civil appointments in Toronto, and for many years officiated as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Upper Canada. During the Rebellion of 1837, for his foresight and energetic preparations, he was instrumental in saving the city from surprise and capture, and a few days later met and routed the rebel forces. For this he was, by the unanimous vote of the two Houses, awarded a grant of 5,000 acres of land. This grant, however, the brave soldier was not to enjoy. The Home Government interfered, and it was not until several years after that he received instead a money grant of £1,000.

In order to make the work trustworthy as a history, and as a narrative of bygone days as attractive as possible, the author has spared no pains in her researches into official documents, letters, and other records which are to be found in our Canadian Archives as well as scattered through the various public offices and libraries where such matter finds a resting-place. Miss FitzGibbon has also visited the battlegrounds of the war of 1812, and procured a number of interesting views with which to embellish her book. Portraits of FitzGibbon and Laura Secord, a map, and a facsimile reproduction of an autograph letter of Sir Isaac Brock's add further interest to the volume.

To the militia of Canada this book, which is at once a biography and a history, may be particularly recommended. Not only does its story captivate, but its examples of duty nobly done, of dangers bravely met, and of impossibilities made possible—of which latter a very pertinent anecdote is given alike to the credit of officer and man—together with its vivid portraiture of military life, both regular and militia, in the beginning of the century, must make it at once a story and a study.

Every public, every Sunday-school, and every private library may well make a place for this most captivating biography, which is being issued at the popular price of one dollar.

We hail with no small satisfaction the addition to the literature of the most interesting period of our country's history of such a volume as "A Veteran of 1812," whose author has placed us under a debt of gratitude for the collection of so many interesting particulars of those stirring times.

A Locomotive Gun Battery.

INTERESTING TRIALS.

By invitation of Sir Julian Goldsmid (hon. colonel), Col. Boxall, and officers of the 1st Sussex Artillery Volunteers a distinguished company of military experts assembled at Newhaven on Saturday, and witnessed an official trial of the armoured train which has been allotted to the Sussex Brigade under the mobilisation defence scheme. The company included members of the headquarters staff from the Horse Guards, officers of the South-Western District from Dover, and a number of Royal Artillery experts. After luncheon, at which the only toast honoured was that of the Queen, Bandmaster Landfreid, who sounded the famous charge at Balacava, was called upon to repeat that charge, and the company then re-entrained for Newhaven, where the experiments were carried out.

A locomotive covered with bullet-proof armour, carrying a 40-pounder Armstrong gun mounted on a special carriage and working on a platform pivoted upon a turntable, drew behind it two carriages, also covered with an iron, bullet-proof cuirass, in which the detachment to work the gun was conveyed, and formed a locomotive battery readily moved from place to place and capable of being fired from any position along its course. The gun under the charge of Capt. Bridgen, was manned by a detachment of nineteen men—the truck-captain (Sergt. G. Russell), the gun layer (Bombardier Hackney), and two members to load, sponge out, and fire, working from the platform of the locomotive, and fifteen other members to traverse the gun, bring up the charges and manage the carriage and platforms working from the ground below. When the gun is fired end on, it simply stands stationary upon the line of rails, held only by clips on the rails or merely scotched up. When fired broadside two girders of steel are slid from beneath the platform, and by means of screw spindles are clamped to stout timbers laid on the ground, so as to form a broad and perfectly stable platform proof against any recoil.

After the equipments of the gun and locomotive had been closely and with great interest examined by the crowd of eminent experts, the Lord Lieutenant was invited to fire electrically the first shot at a target anchored on the water over 2,000 yards seaward. The second shot was fired by Gen. Sir F. Grenfell, and others by Lord Charles Beresford, Lord William Seymour, and Sir Henry Fletcher. When the range had been ascertained firing in quick time was ordered at 2,200 yards, and five rounds were got off by the detachment in the usual way, the charge being fired with the lanyard. The trial was in every respect successful, Gen Goodenough and other experts expressing the most favorable opinions, all appearing to be greatly impressed with the importance of this new development in defensive warfare.

A Medical Corps for Women.

This is pre-eminently an age of emancipation. The tendency of social evolution is to bring all classes of people into the competition of life on a footing of equality of opportunity, and nothing short of the stress and strain of actual experiment will (the *Lancet* supposes) be deemed a sufficient test of the fitness or unfitness of people to fulfil the duties and functions appertaining to different walks of life. Having regard to the enormous waste of energy, to the dissipation of effort in fruitless attempts to discover suitable occupations, to *ennui* that attends the capable who have no scope for exercising their capabilities, and to the struggles to uplift themselves from the dead-level, tideless waters of a genteel poverty in which so

many are apparently doomed to pass their existence, we (the *Lancet* continues) cannot be surprised at the growth of a spirit of emancipation, and a struggle—and sometimes a very silly struggle—for the equality of the sexes; but what does surprise us is that women should select such unlikely and unsuitable outlets for the exercise of their energies. Could there be a more unpromising and absurdly impracticable scheme, for example, than this one of a medical corps for women? To begin with, war is not, happily, an every day occurrence, and, as far as this nation is concerned, they are generally small wars in hot and unhealthy climates, against savage or semi-civilized foes, in countries with topographical obstacles, and where transport is one of the great difficulties to be overcome. Then, again, is it possible to believe that women, unless descended from a race of Amazons, could be organized into an ambulance bearer corps for the transport of sick and wounded soldiers on stretchers, even granting that a revolution took place in their dress and that the members of the new corps appeared in tunic, knickerbockers, and gaiters of quasi-military cut? Nor is this all, for the women composing the corps are to be instructed, it appears, in the use of firearms. If the real and not the assigned object is to afford succor and render service to the sick, why not form a nursing corps to meet the requirements of epidemics and outbreaks of disease in unhealthy climates where nurses are urgently needed and difficult to obtain, and where there is no glamor of war and where there are no bright uniforms or officers to attend—and, shall we add, possibly marry? Notwithstanding the enthusiasm which was stated to have prevailed at the recent meeting at the Ideal Club, we are of opinion that the lady members will have to set up some other ideal than that "for organizing the forces of the sex who were willing to offer the best of their newly strengthened powers for the service of the State."

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