

PREFACE.

The preparation of an account of a trip so momentous and full of interest as the visit of the Thirteenth Regiment to Montreal, while the enthusiasm is still fresh in the minds of those who participated, is a difficult task, for no language can adequately describe the effect upon the members of the ever-varying scenes and incidents of the occasion.

I have therefore attempted simply to give a "plain, unvarnished tale," avoiding all exaggeration and hyperbole. The voluminous and excellent reports made by the gentlemen of the Press who accompanied the regiment, as well as those of the local papers of Montreal and Hartford, have been used freely, and I desire to express, in advance, my acknowledgments for their most valuable and indispensable assistance. Wherever used *verbatim*, I have given the proper credit.

The influence upon the regiment of the expedition from its inception to its close has been highly beneficial. Its *morale* and discipline have been greatly improved. It has increased its numbers, and recruiting is still active. The *esprit du corps* was never greater than at the present time.

It is especially worthy of remark, that from the moment of departure on the 22d of May to the dismissal on the 26th, the evening of the return, there was not a single breach of discipline or decorum. The conduct of the men, individually and collectively, reflected high honor upon the regiment, and upon the State and Nation it represented on foreign soil. It is a most creditable fact, also, that, with a very moderate assessment upon each man, and a few contributions from several generous and public spirited citizens, whose names are here omitted at their own desire, every expense was promptly met; and there remained, after all accounts were settled, a balance of nearly three hundred dollars, which was turned over to the regimental fund.

The committees and all the officers and men entrusted with the carrying out of any part of the details worked with unselfish devotion and zeal.

Of the attention of the soldiers and citizens who extended a reception to the Thirteenth, no words of praise can be too exaggerated. The ovation was continuous and unstinted. The regiment has acknowledged this, as far as is in its power, by resolutions of thanks; and invitations have already been extended to the Montreal Volunteers and to the First Connecticut Regiment to become the guests of the Thirteenth on next Decoration Day.

This account, prepared at the request of the Board of Officers, is submitted with a full appreciation that the description falls far short of the actual occurrences; but it will serve to perpetuate a trip which will survive in the history of the National Guard of the State of New York long after the actors in it have passed from memory.

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