

The toast of "The General and Staff" was drunk with hearty enthusiasm to the strains of "See the Conquering Hero Come," played by the orchestra.

Mr. Ed. Gater sang "The Veteran" amid loud applause.

The next toast was "Fallen Comrades." This was honored silently by the company, the orchestra playing the Dead March in Saul.

The toast of the evening, "The N. W. F. F." was the signal for an outburst of speech making and corresponding eruption of enthusiasm. The list of names coupled with the toast was a long one, commencing with that of Capt. Constantine (N.W.M.P.). A letter was read from the Captain regretting his absence from town and wishing the company a jolly evening.

Mr. E. A. C. McLorg, replying for the Horse, thanked the company for the very tasteful way in which they had drunk his health and concluded a brief but interesting speech amid loud applause.

Mr. E. Gater, who divided the honors with C. P. Harris for the speech of the evening, said: Comrades and gentlemen, I feel highly honored in being called on to reply to the toast of the N. W. F. F. I am glad to see so many members of that force here this evening. We have had some trouble in starting this annual dinner, but another year I venture to predict will see four or five times the number here. (Cheers) I feel it an honor to have belonged to Boulton's force through the campaign and if there was any trouble again I should be proud to enlist again under Major Boulton. I am glad to pay a tribute to-night to the Artillery, coupled with the names of Major Peters and Major Short. Some person signing himself "Obiter Dicta," writing in the *Winnipeg Free Press* has brought in Major Short's name in decrying General Middleton and has made the statement that if it had not been for Major Short, Batoche would not have been taken. Now, I don't want to decry the late Major Short. If he had only had his chance he would have been a Victoria Cross man, and that is a great honor; but Major Short was never at any time during the Rebellion within 150 miles of Batoche. "Obiter Dicta" is either a liar—or an ass. Mr. Gater went to pay a tribute to the late Capt. French and his scouts, to the Midland Battalion, the Grenadiers, the Nintietth and the Transport. At the charge of Batoche, said the speaker, I suddenly found myself separated from the company and under the enemy's fire. A certain sergeant, seeing my position, brought a file of men and rescued me from what I thought was a perilous position. That Sergeant I afterwards discovered was A. E. Christie. The day we marched into Batoche with French's Scouts I was riding a horse who could not stand fire and I had just let down my bridle when the firing began and my horse bolted. If it had not been for Mr. Tennyson, who rode a white pony and captured my horse I should have been massacred. I wish to take this oppor-

tunity of referring to the letters which have been appearing in the press.

A certain person signing himself Lieut.-Col. Houghton has made statements about his commanding officer which are totally unbecoming an officer and a gentleman. He has made a number of statements which I have no hesitation in characterizing as false, and I consider General Middleton has behaved in more than a lenient way in not saying why Col. Houghton was sent back from Batoche. Why was Col. Houghton galloping wildly about brandishing an Infantry man's rifle? I say, gentlemen, that General Middleton behaved all through that campaign as a man wearing the Victoria Cross and the Victoria Cross is the noblest badge any man in the world can wear.

Mr. Tennyson sang "The Scout" which was received with cheers, and Mr. A. E. Christie followed with "Pork, Beans and Hardtack," apologizing for it on the ground that he was only asked to sing it two months ago.

Mr. Christie made an eloquent and witty speech in replying for the Foot, and Mr. J. T. Thompson followed with "Drill Ye Terriers, Drill."

Capt. Harris said: Gentlemen and fellow comrades, I am proud to respond to this toast, and yet sorry in one way because I was not told about it till to-night. I am a true blue Artillery man, having been in the artillery for twenty-five years. If we ever have another rebellion I don't think it will be necessary to ask for volunteers in the east. We have the bone and sinew in the North-West to take up arms for the Queen and make a corps second to none in Canada. Well, gentlemen, I've had a little active service and seen blood spilled. My comrade Mr. Cleverly can tell you that we were in the rebellion of '66 and again in '69, and wherever those big guns went they were a terror to evil doers. I was at Fish Creek the first day the Gatling gun was fired and I have in my house the first two shells fired. I am proud to support what Mr. Gater has said in praise of General Middleton. On one occasion Col. Denison said he wouldn't allow me to leave the camp, but the General said "You can't stop that man—I've no control over him at all." I always found General Middleton a perfect gentleman in every way.

Mr. White, Q.C., replied to the toast of the Transport and thanked them on behalf of the 600 he had the honor of commanding at the base. Although not in the line of fire their position was always a perilous one, and while they did not bleed for their country they all bled their country to the extent of \$5 a day and upwards. Whatever might be said about the Transport they had the pleasure of knowing it was an efficient one.

Rev. W. T. Mitton said it was a good thing to let sleeping dogs lie—they did lie anyway, even here. Mr. Mitton proceeded to give some of his very amusing reminiscences in the rebellion as a "bull driver" in the "flying column." Mr. Mitton described his adventures with the oxen, re-

calling well known figures and places and concluded amid loud cheers.

Sheriff Murphy said he was glad to reply for the Transport by some sarcastically called "high priced." After stating that the 2nd of April was selected as being the anniversary of the starting of the column from Qu'Appelle, the Sheriff concluded by saying that while the rebellion was not a first class war it taught them that a Briton, no matter whether he came from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Canada, is always willing to take up arms and fight for his Queen.

Mr. Alex. Hamilton said it was during the rebellion that he first met Major White and Capt. Murphy. He (the speaker) had the honor of being in charge of a division of the Transport (voice: "who drank those hospital comforts?" Well, though only in a humble position I did my duty. There's no use telling you what I did, because I did a great deal that didn't redound to my credit and if anyone was to take up arms against the Government of Canada I would be happy to do the same again.)

"Absent Comrades" was followed by "The Girl I left behind me" from the band.

"Our host and hostess and the band" was drunk with honors and neatly replied to by Mr. Cleverly.

Dr. Harris sang with much feeling the St. Paul song "Blue Bottles" and Capt. Christie gave a very appropriate recitation. Sergt. Major Morris was called on and made a neat speech.

"The Press" was proposed by Mr. White and replied to by Mr. J. J. Young, and soon afterwards the happy gathering broke up with "Auld Lang Syne"—Moosomin N. W. T. *Spectator*, April 5th.

The Commandant and the Militia.

(From the St. Johns, P.Q., News.)

One of the best abused men in Canada to-day, exclusive at least of the noble and patriotic band of politicians, is Major-General Herbert. Fortunately the Major-General is not a sensitive man, and we do not therefore imagine that he will be seriously affected by what the critics and commentators are saying about him. The trouble is all owing to the fact that a report of the Commandant of the Canadian Militia has just seen the light of day, and that this report is far from pleasant reading to the majority of officers and men who form the volunteer force, and to a considerable extent the regular force of this broad dominion. But the question arises, is the report correct? or in other words, is the General unfair, inaccurate or prejudiced in his strictures? Different replies will of course be returned to these questions. Every one, and especially every one who is even remotely connected with the militia force, will have his own theory; but so far as we are concerned, while it is always unpleasant to say unpleasant things, our honest conviction is that General Herbert has not left very