

to their friends on Monday evening, the 24th ult., at their Mess Rooms, with Acting Sergt.-Major McKell in the chair. About 250 took advantage of the invitation extended by the Mess, amongst whom were included members of some of the sister corps of the city. Among the number present I noticed Commander Law, R.N., Col. Hamilton, Capts. McGee, Bennett, Greene and Quarter-Master Heakes, Lieuts. Lee, Knifton, Wyatt, Crean, Sergt.-Major Cox and Quarter-Master Sergt. Dale of the Royal Grenadiers, Colour-Sergt. Gallaway, Sergt. Butcher and Corp. Craig from C Co., I.S.C. An overture entitled "The Gondolier," by Prof. Bonheur (piano) and Mr. Camile Napoletano (violin) opened the concert, which was followed by a song entitled "Good Company," rendered with splendid effect by Mr. E. Lye. This same gentleman, in company with Mr. A. Davis, later on in the evening gave the "Old Brigade" in such a manner as to compel the audience to insist on an encore, in response to which "Larboard Watch" was given. Mr. W. E. Ramsay, Toronto's old time favourite, gave with good effect, "I was in it," and again was the rule of the Chairman, who warned the audience that no encores would be given, broken by the enthused audience, who were only stilled by a splendid rendering of "Angels without wings," a very taking satire on the ladies. The following artists also earned from the audience unstinted praise for the pieces named:—Mr. C. Napoletano, violin solo, "Selection from Il Trovatore"; Mr. O'Donnell, piccolo solo; Mr. A. E. Dent, song, "Freedom and Right"; Mr. Lister, song, "Sleep well Sweet Angels"; Mr. H. Barker, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep"; and encore of "She may lick McCarthy, but she can't lick me"; Sergt. G. Creighton, song, "Powder Monkey," and Mr. Cockin rendered with splendid effect "The Death of Burnaby"; Colour-Sergt. G. E. Cooper gave a bone solo, and in response to an enthusiastic encore, the popular Colour-Sergt. gave the solo with gesture alone; Mr. Ab. Hurst contributed a pleasing exhibition of club swinging, accompanied on the piano by Prof. Bonheur; Messrs. Stemmer Bros. and Glenfield gave two rattling exhibitions of the "manly art," and the approval expressed as each point was made gave evidence that the love of this British art in its purity predominates amongst such an audience as witnessed these set-to's.

The last and by far the most successful feature of the entertainment was the performance entitled "Humour on the Horizontal Bar," by Messrs. Fred. and Ab. Hurst, Alf. Davidson and C. Morgan. Messrs. Ab. Hurst and Morgan ably sustained their reputation as clean, neat gymnasts, whilst Messrs. Fred. Hurst and Davidson as clowns carried off the laurels of the evening. Round after round of laughter was evoked from the audience at the comical efforts of the clowns to convince them that in no way were they inferior to the gymnasts who preceded them in all their motions.

The sword feats of Mr. A. Davidson, of cutting the paper and also the finger from the hand of Mr. Hurst "brought down the house," the applause for which was only surpassed by that called for by the burlesque of a prize fight, where the sluggery was terrific at about four paces. This quartette, with only a few hours' notice, acquitted themselves most creditably and have very kindly consented to repeat their farce at the entertainment in aid of the Band fund, to be given in the Grand Opera House on the 12th May. Col. Hamilton made a few remarks and complimented the Mess very highly for the grand success of their entertainment, and regretted exceedingly that this was to be the last of the series. He spoke of the great eagerness with which those present would look forward to the opening one of next season's series, and announced the probable opening of the season's drill as the 2nd April. The Colonel concluded by moving a hearty vote of thanks to the committee and the performers of the evening. Acting Sgt. Major McKell on their behalf replied in a few short words, in which he said the committee had spared no pains in making the concert enjoyable to all and from the result he felt sure that the object in view had been arrived at. The National Anthem brought the concert to a close, and afterwards a couple of hours were spent partaking of all the amusement the Mess afforded. The committee was composed of the following members: Col. Sgt. G. E. Cooper, Pioneer Sgt. Harp, Sgts. N. B. Sanson, J. O. Thorn and J. G. Langton.

"BREECH BLOCK."

Belleville.

The annual business meeting of the officers of the 15th Battalion was held on Monday evg. 31st ult.

The 49th Hastings Rifles are going to turn out in camp this year wearing white helmets; the old green ones are to be discarded. The county council voted the sum of \$300 to aid in purchasing the headware.

After a lingering illness of two years' duration, of consumption, E. R. Reeves, eldest and only surviving son of Jos. P. Reeves, died at his father's residence on Tuesday afternoon March 25th. Deceased was for many years an active member of the 49th Hastings Rifles, and took part in the second expedition to Fort Garry (now Winnipeg), during the

first Riel insurrection in the North-West. In later years he was connected with the 15th Battalion. His father is a veteran of the rebellion of '37-38. He was in the 41st year of his age and leaves a widow and little son. Frank, genial, and generous in disposition he was esteemed by all who knew him, and his death has cast a gloom over the sadly afflicted home, in which he makes the eighth member to die of that dread destroyer. His funeral took place on Thursday afternoon the 27th ult.

There are very very few men in Canada still living who have served over 50 years in the Militia, and among that very few we have here in Belleville one who has not only served 50 years, but is now in his 53rd year as a Canadian Militiaman, I refer to the veteran and venerable Sergt.-Major of the 49th Battalion Hastings Rifles, Wm. Blaind. He entered the Militia in 1837 and has ever since remained in it. For about 16 years he has been his regiment's efficient Sergt.-Major. He has the honour of wearing a long service (silver) medal granted to him by the Canadian Government, some thirteen years ago; right well has he earned it and long may he live to wear it. Although getting on in years, he is still smart and active and retains all his old time enthusiasm on matters military, and no doubt is anxiously looking forward to the time when his Battalion goes into camp this year and anticipating a pleasant and profitable time while there. These old veterans in the Militia service must have had many disadvantages to contend with and obstacles to encounter in the earlier days of our country's history, and when our Militia was only in its infancy, and no doubt have witnessed many changes in the regulations and drill of the same. And we, the younger members of Canada's citizen soldiery should respect, revere, and feel proud of such men, who, by their patriotism and military ardour have set before us such good examples, and to us their presence in the Militia should be an ever present inspiration.

The following is from the *Intelligencer*, of March 12th:—"A recent despatch from Hayti announces the appointment to the rank of Adjt.-General of the Haytian Army of Capt. Gadsby, formerly of the Canadian Militia. Wm. John Cecil Gadsby joined the 15th Battalion, Belleville, Ont., early in the year 1885, and underwent a course of instruction at the Royal School of Infantry, St. Johns. At the termination of the course he moved to Montreal, and was for a year or so attached to the 6th Fusiliers, to which regiment he was anxious to receive a transfer. His removal to Boston early in 1886 was the last heard of him until the news referred to was received from Hayti. The new Adjt. General took part in the recent bloody revolution in Hayti as aide-de-camp on Legitime's staff. When that leader was defeated he appears to have been at once taken into the confidence of the victorious Hypolite. Gadsby is an Englishman, about 25 years of age when in Montreal, and was considered more as an enthusiastic soldier than a bright one. He belongs to a good family in England, from whom he received regular remittances while residing here."

"ARGYLE."

How to Fight a Battle.

True courage and true wisdom consist alone in calculating danger in its utmost extent, in foreseeing and preparing for the worst that may happen. —*Piasley*.

A battle ought never to be fought while there is good reason to believe that delay will render the chances still greater in one's favour; and a battle ought to be fought as soon as practicable when there is good reason to believe that time, with the advantages and disadvantages it is bringing, is on the whole augmenting the enemy's chances, and that it will continue to do so. —*Yates*.

A battle, the most costly and decisive drama in the world, lasts but a few hours; its various phenomena, therefore, succeed each other with incalculable rapidity. The combinations which influence it must be characterized by a prompt decision and sudden inspiration. —*Lendy*.

The stroke of an army in battle, when its grand attack has developed itself, and the decisive moment sounds, should have an analogy with the stroke of a mighty wave, which having struck the opposing stranded ship in pieces, seems as yet not contented with its victory, but still rolls on to overwhelm and surge around the fragments. —*Yates*.

There is in all battles a moment when every weapon, every man, every combination of force that can be brought to bear is to be brought into full and rapid action, in order to obtain and insure the victory. —*Yates*.

There are some battles which claim our attention independently of the moral worth of the combatants, on account of their enduring importance, and by reason of the practical influence on our social and political condition, which we can trace up to the results of these engagements. They have for us an abiding and actual interest, both while we investigate the chain of causes and effects by which they have helped to make us what we are, and also while we speculate on what we probably should have been, if any one of those battles had come to a different termination. —*Crescy*.