

there have been cases in which the services of crack shots have been invaluable the following instances will prove.

At the time of the Indian mutiny, young Hercules Ross, son of the famous sportsman and marksman, Capt. Horatio Ross, and brother of Edward Ross, the winner of the Queen's prize at Wimbledon, was the crack rifle shot of India. He subsequently won the Indian championship three years in succession, and on the third occasion he put on ten consecutive bull's eyes at 1,000 yards. He was also a mighty tiger slayer. But he proved the value of his deadly skill with the rifle against more formidable foes than the jungle could produce. His greatest and most memorable feat was the following:

He had ridden nearly 100 miles to a ford on the Gogra, where it was expected that a large force of mutineers intended to cross. It was of absolutely vital importance to keep them at bay until the women and children and the sick and wounded could be removed from an English station close by. Hercules Ross heroically undertook the task. He had a pit dug on the bank of the river commanding the ford. Here he took his post, with a dozen good rifles by his side and four attendants to load for him. The heavy rains had swollen the river, and the ford was impassible; but the enemy had a large boat, and with this proceeded to make the passage of the stream. But Ross, from his rifle pit, picked off the rowers one by one with marvellous skill. Time after time the boat put back; time after time it came on again; but the quick and deadly fire which that swift rifleman kept up prevented the oarsmen from getting more than a third of the way across.

Armed only with the old Brown Bess, the Sepoys could not touch the occupants of the rifle pit. For three hours, with unflinching skill and nerve, Hercules Ross shot down the rebel rowers whenever they attempted to cross, till at last a body of English troops with three guns came up, and the Sepoys suddenly retired. By his splendid marksmanship, coupled with unflinching steadiness and courage, young Ross undoubtedly saved the lives of those English women and children with their helpless sick and wounded companions.

Another, and even more remarkable instance of the value of marksmanship in action occurred at Lucknow, during the long and terrible siege. The Sepoys had hauled a couple of eighteen-pounders on to a flat roof of one of the palaces which surrounded the residency, in which the English were at bay. If they could only mount those guns they would be able to pour a plunging fire down upon the defenders at the Residency which would soon have made the place untenable and compelled the English to surrender. It was imperative, therefore, that those guns should not be mounted. Sergeant Halliwell, of the second Foot, was the crack shot of the little garrison. He was supplied with the best rifles that the officers possessed, and he was posted in an angle of the Residency, with orders to prevent the Sepoys from mounting those guns. The part of the building in which he took up his position had already been battered by the Sepoy guns into a heap of ruins, and behind the shattered masonry he lay at full length—there was just enough cover to protect him in that posture. For several days he remained there, never once rising to his feet or even to his knees, for to do so would have been instant death from the swarms of rebel marksmen in front of him. The only change of attitude he could get was by rolling over from his back to his stomach, and vice versa.

His powers of endurance were almost superhuman. He was a man who hardly seemed to know the need of sleep. He kept his eye night and day on those dismounted guns. Whenever the Sepoys attempted to mount them his deadly rifle was at work, and he picked them off one

by one till they dared no longer expose as much as a finger to the unerring aim of this mysterious and invisible death-dealer. In the dead of night provisions were conveyed to him by men crawling on their hands and knees along the slight barricade, which was all the shelter they had from the cannon and muskets of the foe. The guns were captured in a sortie, and blown up, and Sergeant Halliwell's long and painful vigil was at an end.—Halifax Echo, December 2nd.

The New Regiment's First Sunday in Halifax.

The Royal Berkshires, in very nearly full strength, had their first church parade yesterday morning; and over a thousand people were gathered about the Garrison church when the soldiers marched in. There was a fife and drum corps and a brass band—the former were said to be very good; the latter noticeably sweet, but lacking strength, or volume. The physique of the men was favorably commented on; they are of a larger average than the King's, and of most intelligent appearance. There were the usual little awkwardness incidental to a new regiment: the band on entering the enclosure kept straight on at the head instead of diverging on an angle, and the leading officers had not yet had time to get acquainted with the staff, and therefore practically saluted in dumb show. There were very few officers' ladies present on this the first morning.

One of the regular civilian advance guard of the parade informed a bystander that this was the tenth regiment he had come down from Wellington Barracks with.

There was a great rush to get in the church, after the soldiers were encompassed thereby, and there was a bigger crowd on the run across the enclosure than the troops afforded, all eager to be first, and several hundred feet of males and females on the run, four or five feet deep as they got through the gate. It is probable there was a congregation of 600 or 700 persons.

The band, in going to church, played the beautiful "Maple" march:

"God Save our Queen, and Heaven bless
The maple leaf for ever."

About 25 of the new regiment attended service at St. Patrick's. The band did not take part in service, the organ being used instead. Rev. Dr. Bullock read the prayers, Rev. Mr. Willis the first lesson, and Rev. W. H. Bullock, Garrison Chaplain, preached from Numbers 10: 29: "Come thou with us and we will do thee good." He referred to the fact that the three officiating clergymen had been connected with the Berkshires in Malta, Egypt and England. Rev. Mr. Willis, the preacher said, was at one time an officer in the regiment, and the preacher himself was with the regiment in more than one engagement.—The Recorder.

No. 5 Company, 63rd Rifles, Presented with the Cup.

No. 5 company, 63rd Rifles, (Capt. Sircom), held a special meeting at the band room Saturday night, when the government grant was paid and the prizes won at company shooting were presented. The occasion was of more than ordinary interest, as Col. Egan was on hand to present his efficiency cup, which No. 5 won at inspection. In doing so he paid a high compliment to the company, which he said could always be relied upon to make a good showing. He gave some interesting reminiscences of the company, which was organized in 1859, with T. E. Kenny, (our present M.P.,) as captain. The company was known as the "Halifax Rifles," the title which the battalion now bears, and shortly after being organized became so strong that it was divided into two companies. No. 5 has contributed some worthy officers to the staff, among the number being Majors Cummings (who died some years

ago) and Hayden and Col. Walsh, both retired. He said it afforded him great pleasure in handing over the custody of the cup to his old company, and urged upon all to renew their efforts next year and endeavor to retain it. Capt. Sircom made an appropriate reply, after which a pleasant hour was spent in speeches, songs, refreshments, etc.—The Recorder.

GRAVELCRUSHER.

Kingston.

KINGSTON, Dec. 9th—The new Major-General has come and gone, and the Kingston garrison has relapsed into the quietness of everyday life. The Major-General's stay in Kingston was marked by one round of festivities, in honor of himself and Mrs. Gascoigne.

First, a reception and an "at home" was given by Major and Mrs. Drury and the officers of "A" Field Battery R.C.A. in their mess-room. The affair was a brilliant success. The reception room, dancing room, and refreshment room were brightly decorated with flags, flowers, and plants, and the refreshment room glittered with the magnificent plate of the mess. A number of officers from outside corps were present, and the cream of Kingston society attended.

Lt-Col Cotton, D.A.G., entertained the General and Mrs. Gascoigne at a dinner to which forty guests sat down. Major-General Cameron and the staff of the Royal Military College tendered a dinner to the visitors, as did also Captain and Mrs. Ogilvie of "A" Battery. Lt-Col Smith and the officers of the 14th Batt. P. W.O.R., gave a reception and assembly at the Hotel Frontenac, which was a great success.

But the General's visit was not devoted entirely to pleasure. He inspected minutely the classes, methods of instruction, etc., at the Royal Military College; "A" Field Battery was paraded for his inspection, he inspected the stores, kits, etc., of the corps, and also the stores of the 4th Hussars, the Kingston Field Battery, and the 14th, P.W.O.R. He afterwards inspected the ruins of the fortifications which once guarded the city.

Speaking to your correspondent, the General stated that what he had seen of the permanent corps in Kingston had pleased him more than anything else that he had seen in Canada. He said it would not be worth while expending the sum that would be needed to repair the Martello towers, fort Henry, and other fortifications, as they had been allowed to fall into such ruinous condition.

The reception given in honor of General and Mrs. Gascoigne, by the officers of the 14th, was unfortunately marred by the disgraceful conduct of a "fresh" sergeant of the corps, who had charge of the guard of honor. This warlike individual celebrated his selection for this duty by getting thoroughly drunk, and had to be taken home by his comrades. On the streets, he made the night hideous with his yells and curses, and was reported to the chief of police by a policeman. The chief reported the matter to the adjutant of the 14th, and the offender was taken before the commanding officer of the corps, and reprimanded. His fellow non-coms feel keenly the disgrace brought upon the regiment, and are not backward in expressing their opinions on the matter.

An important change has been made in the organization of "A" battery, R. C.A., and the corps will henceforth, as long as the existing conditions in the militia remain in effect, be a four-gun battery. One of the extra guns will be retained and used for drill purposes for short course men, the other will either be returned to stores or sent away for the use of some other battery.

In future each of the four guns of the battery will have its requisite ammunition waggon, each gun detachment will