

organization. A remarkable showing, truly! And that it was no lucky accident which placed them in this proud position is shown by the fact that the preceding year they appeared as high as *twelfth* in the same list. The five highest in the report for 1860-61 were as follows:—

	Figure of Merit.
1st. 1st Battalion 22nd Foot.....	51.66
2nd. 47th Foot.....	48.24
3rd. 2nd Battalion 3rd Foot.....	47.29
4th. 56th Foot.....	46.80
5th. 100th Royal Canadians.....	46.63

The figure of merit of the 50th in order is given as 39.40; of the 100th 33.97; of the 150th (Royal Canadian Rifles) 28.09; and of the 178th, the last on the list, 16.93. The names of the three best judges of distance among the officers of each regiment are given. These are, for the Hundredth, Capt. Jno. Lee, Lieut. Brown Wallis and Ensign T. H. Baldwin.

The letter of Col. Fletcher, referred to above, appeared on the 26th ult., and was as follows:—

To the Editor of the Witness:

SIR,—Some weeks ago there appeared in the *Witness* a letter signed "T. F.," making use of sarcastic language and erroneous statements in reference to the colors and to the raising of the 100th Regiment. I was glad to read in a subsequent number of the *Witness* a letter from Corporal Morrison refuting the statements made by "T. F." But the latter is not yet satisfied with what he has done to disparage the patriotism of those who raised and formed the regiment in England's time of need. He is out with another letter in the *Witness* purporting to be an answer to Corporal Morrison, but is rather an effort to cast a slur on the rank and file of the regiment.

As one who helped to raise the regiment and was afterwards attached to the recruiting depot in Toronto, I beg to state the following facts, showing: 1st, That the 100th was a Canadian regiment; 2nd, That the officers appointed to raise the regiment were all, with the exception of four ensigns, selected from the volunteer militia force; 3rd, That the men were loyal, able-bodied and intelligent, comparing favorably with the men of any other regiment, and were enlisted for ten years' service.

When the Crimean war began, offers of service were made by Canadians to the Home Government, but it was not deemed expedient at the time to accept these offers. When the Indian mutiny broke out in 1857, an offer was made by a number of officers of Canadian volunteers to raise a regiment for service in India. This offer was accepted, the regiment to be placed on the strength of the British army, and numbered and known as 100th, or Prince of Wales Royal Canadian Regiment; the lieut.-colonel, one major, six captains, and six lieutenants, to be appointed from the active militia, and four ensigns from young men who had passed with college honors in Canada.

The Adjutant-General of Militia, Baron de Rottenburg, was appointed lieut.-colonel. Dunn, V.C., a Toronto man, and retired officer of the 11th Hussars, who won the V.C., at the "Charge of the Light Brigade," was appointed major. The captains and lieutenants were selected from the officers who had previously offered their services, and who were at the time efficient officers of the volunteer force. The major had to furnish 200 men, each captain 80, and each lieutenant 40 men. Recruiting began in April, 1858, and by the end of May the quotas were complete, and the regiment quartered in the Citadel of Quebec, there to prepare for embarkation to England. It will be seen from the foregoing that "T. F.'s" statement is untrue where he says that "anyone who could raise a certain number of men got a commission." The officers were first appointed, and then they had to get the men.

The regiment was sent to England in three detachments—and was stationed at Shorncliffe camp to get thoroughly organized and equipped. When they had been drilled for a few weeks, the Duke of Cambridge came to inspect them. When he saw the regiment on parade, he expressed himself as being agreeably surprised at its fine appearance, and in going down the ranks, now and then he would turn to his staff, and, pointing to the men, exclaim, "Splendid men; splendid men!" After inspection the Duke congratulated the officers on the fine body of men under their command, and stated that he was highly pleased with the record of the regiment while at Quebec and on board ship.

The Indian mutiny having been quelled, the regiment was put under orders for Gibraltar. Before leaving Shorncliffe, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presented a stand of colors to the Canadian Regiment, to identify the regiment with the service of the Old 100th Regiment in Canada, the colors bore the honor "Niagara"—a battle in which the Old Regiment took a successful and prominent part. The colors were received by the Canadians with royal honors and accepted by them as a pledge of their fealty to the throne. The remains of these colors—after 29 years' service—are now in Ottawa, where, it is the earnest desire of the old members of the regiment, they should remain as a memento of the gallant body of Canadians who left Canada in 1858 to defend the Empire.

To rebut the inuendo of "T. F." that "the departure of many in the regiment was most regretted by the tavern keepers"—i. e. that the men were soakers and loafers—I will show by the conduct of a draft of recruits from the depot at Toronto to the regimental depot at Parkhurst, Isle of Wight, that the men were steady and reliable. I left Toronto in May, 1859, in command of a draft of one hundred men. I had two sergeants to assist me. The men behaved well on the voyage. We landed at Liverpool in the evening. I marched the men to the billet masters; the men were billeted in twos and threes in public houses throughout the city. Before dispersing I gave them the orders to meet at the railway depot at an early hour next morning. If the men had been barroom customers here was an opportunity for them to indulge in a drop,—billeted in taverns,—with money in their pockets,—after a rough passage,—plenty of would-be friends to entice them. The muster next morning gave me, I must say, anxiety, but at the hour named I was glad to see every man present and able for the route, not a man unfit for duty. The same night we were billeted in Southampton, and next morning all were on parade ready to cross to Cowes. I marched every man into barracks safe and sound.

This draft was only an average sample of the main body, and of the other drafts from Toronto.

"T. F." makes a deal ado about there being no Canadians in the regiment now,

and states that the men who enlisted when the regiment was formed either bolted or bought themselves out. This is false. There were fewer desertions from the 100th than from any other regiment in the service, and not over thirty bought their discharge. A number of the men died of cholera in Malta. The regiment came to Canada in 1866, and in 1868 the men whose ten years' service had expired took their discharge.

The recruiting depot at Toronto was broken up in 1861, as the expense of the transport of recruits to England was found to be too expensive. Therefore, it cannot possibly be expected that a twenty-six years' service man could be found in the 100th, or any other regiment in the service.

JOHN FLETCHER,
Late Lieut. 100th Regt.
Montreal.

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In this connection the following excerpts from a letter recently addressed to a former brother officer now residing in Ottawa, by Colonel Waverley Smythe, late of the Royal Canadians, will be read with interest by old members of the regiment. Col. Smythe had been forwarded a copy of this paper containing some particulars published consequent upon the arrival of the colours in this city. He says:—

"The list of officers given in the MILITIA GAZETTE is nearly correct, but F. Morris was not in the original formation. He was promoted from the ranks as Sergt. Musketry Instructor to an Ensigncy and Musketry Instructor for the regiment. Then again J. Lee is put as Adjutant, which is correct; but J. Lee, Ensign, Musketry Instructor, is incorrect; there was no such officer. Again there was no such officer as Burwell, but there was a Benwell. * * I am pleased to hear that you still take an interest in the old corps, in whose ranks not one, either officer, non-c. officer or private soldier remains of the original formation in 1858. I was the last officer, and Sergt. Hemphill the last n. c. officer; both of us left the regiment in India. Private Dugas was not of the original lot; he joined some years later—if I am not mistaken just before or after the regiment arrived in Canada in 1866.

"Regarding the old colours, I decidedly think their proper place would be the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa. The first formation was made up of Upper Canadians, there being very few French Canadians in the regiment, and in consequence I am unable to see what claim Lower Canada or the French Cathedral can set forth for their custody.

"The only surviving officers of the old corps in this country are Col. Baron de Rottenburg, C.B., residing at Windsor; myself, at Dover (I was made full Colonel in 1881); and Capt. (now Lt.-Col.) G. Browne, V.C., who now resides in the Isle of Wight. All the others are scattered, and many lost sight of if still living. Capt. Macartney, formerly of the regiment, died in a London hospital not long ago—most miserably. He had for a long time been poverty stricken.

"Remember me to any of my old friends if there are any left. I do not know if I shall ever see old Canada again; I am not so fond of the sea as in other days."

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This gallant old soldier is a Canadian to the backbone, and to the soundness of the constitution he took with him from this country he largely attributes his escape from the perils of life in India. An old letter of his addressed to the same correspondent here as received that quoted above, gives some interesting particulars of the experiences of the regiment. Writing on the 10th of March, 1879, he said:

"It is twenty one years this month since I joined the regiment, and I am the last of the gallant 21 or 22 officers who went from Canada with it. One by one they have all departed. Some sold, many are dead, and a few exchanged—but all are gone, with the one tough exception. My time will soon come, no doubt, and the old corps be thoroughly and entirely renewed in officers and men. There are fifteen or twenty of the old soldiers still in the ranks, but they, too, will soon be gone, as their twenty-one years are completed. However, out in this country they can prolong their service one year if good men. * * The regiment suffered dreadfully last hot season, at Jullundur, where we were first stationed after our arrival out here. We lost many men, a lot of women, and as for the children they died like flies. The officers have dropped off their perch one after the other, I being the only one that pulled through without a day's illness, and up to the present escaped the many diseases to which we are subject in this country. * * Your history of the first lot of officers is a sad one; and as you remark out of those who went out in the *Anglo-Saxon* in 1858 you and I alone remain.

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Were I to return to Ottawa at any future day, I expect I would walk the streets unknown and unrecognized. The old Canadian who was the first to start the volunteer force and raise a rifle corps in what was then Upper Canada has long since been forgotten, except by a few.

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Here is a quotation from another letter written from India, on the 28th June, 1880: "I am now struggling through one of the hottest of hot seasons, but the old Canadian is always on hand and fit for duty.