

## SOMEBODY'S DARLING.

Into a ward of the whitewashed walls,  
Where dead and the dying lay—  
Wounded by bayonets, shells, and balls—  
Somebody's darling was borne one day  
Somebody's darling! So young and so brave,  
Wearing still on his pale, sweet face,  
Soon to be hid by the dust of the grave,  
The lingering light of his boyhood's grace.

Matted and damp are the curls of gold  
Kissing the snow of that fair young brow;  
Pale are the lips of delicate mould—  
Somebody's darling is dying now.  
Back from the beautiful, blue-veined face,  
Brush every wandering silken thread;  
Cross his hands as a sign of grace—  
Somebody's darling is still and dead.

Kiss him once for somebody's sake,  
Murmure a prayer soft and low,  
One bright curl from the cluster take—  
They were somebody's pride, you know.  
Somebody's hand hath rested there;  
Was it a mother's soft and white?  
And have the lips of a sister fair  
Been baptized in those waves of light?

God knows best. He was somebody's love;  
Somebody's heart enshrined him there;  
Somebody waited his time above,  
Night and morn, on the wings of prayer.  
Somebody wept when he marched away,  
Looking so handsome, brave and grand;  
Somebody's kiss on his forehead lay;  
Somebody clung to his parting hand.

Somebody watching and waiting for him,  
Yearning to hold him again to her heart;  
There he lies—with the blue eyes dim,  
And smiling, childlike lips apart.  
Tenderly bury the fair young dead,  
Pausing to drop on his grave a tear;  
Carve on the wooden slab at his head—  
"Somebody's darling lies buried here!"

## Big and Little Armies.

An evening contemporary, putting itself in the position of the British taxpayer, after he has been made aware of the comparative military poverty of the country, supposes the taxpayer to make the following survey of the general position of affairs:—"When he inquires, with a view to prudent minimum, what were the proportions of the French Army when it set out towards the Rhine in July, 1870, he learns that the total force, in six army corps and the Imperial Guard, amounted to about 300,000 men. 'Very well,' he reflects, 'we must have more than that to begin with, or we shall soon be knocked into a cocked hat.' He turns to the formidable parade of the mobilized British Army, and has painful sensations. Here are eight army corps, it is true; and in the scheme they are all filled up, from generals to drummers, from chaplains to cooks; but when they are all told—horse and foot, field marshals, gunners, pontoon and telegraph train, doctors, wagoners, butchers, bakers, and all—they number just 259,824 men, 84,680 horses, 11,280 vehicles, and 720 guns. It is not with a cheerful heart that he turns up the field states of the army which represented all-conquering Fatherland in the subjugation of France. His new military organization may perhaps bear comparison with the 300,000 men whom Prussia had under arms at the declaration of war in July; but it does not look quite up to his notions in face of the fact that, within one month of that declaration, Germany had 1,124,000 soldiers in the field. He reads with dismay of the Prussian Army, with its 640,000 men in four grand and independent corps; the North German Army, starting with 550,000 in the line, 1200 guns, and 53,000 cavalry; its 187,000 reserve with 234 guns and 18,000 cavalry, and its 205,000 landwehr, with 10,000 cavalry; and he feels that he can hardly afford to despise the 63,000 Bavarian Infantry, with 192 guns and 14,800 horses, 25,000 reserves, 2400 horses, and 22,000 landwehr; or even the 16,000

linesmen, 54 guns, 4000 reserve, and 9600 landwehr, which formed the contribution of little Baden. Happy for him if he can take refuge from despair in the official reports on the autumn manoeuvres of 1871, and believe that, while the transport and the officers might have been in better order, the artillery was 'magnificent,' the cavalry, 'superb,' and the infantry 'very good.' 'Quality before quantity,' he cries, not without some passing suspicion of bravado, and he resolves from that day forth to prize his army as he prizes his cob, his farm, and sometimes his wife, for the unique virtue combined in the qualities 'little and good.' Happier still if he should weather the final shock when it is told him that but one of all his eight army corps is completely made up of regular troops, while three of them have but a single brigade of regulars in each.

"But comfort is for the man who will seek it; and there may yet be abundant consolation for the sanguine man in the reflection that the British Army has done glorious deeds and achieved substantial successes far out of proportion to its size. The big armies have always belonged to the foreigner; but not always the big victories. We cannot point to many large bodies of soldiery who have passed into captivity wholesale, like the 83,000 who surrendered at Sedan, or the 180,000 at Metz. We have not often counted 37,000 of our compatriots killed and wounded in two days' fighting, as did the Germans at Mars-la-Tour and Gravelotte; nor can we say that in one single month we ever lost 350,000 men and 800 guns, as did the French during the January that closed with the capitulation of Paris. We have never had on the army sick-list at one time 100,000 men, as the Federals reported of themselves in November, 1862; nor have our military operations ever cost us £600,000,000 in five years, as those of the civil war cost the United States between the beginning of 1861 and the end of 1865. Before we reached the present era of bloated 'armaments,' Prussia had boasted her 350,000, Turkey her 450,000, Austria her 500,000, Russia her 500,000 and France her 1,000,000 men in arms at various times; and when twelve years ago, the round estimate of European armies was placed at 6,000,000 soldiers, a million horses, and 11,000 guns, England's share was but 22,918 regular fighting men. It is not for us to aspire to such honours as Xerxes, with his seventeen hundred thousand foot and eighty thousand horse, or as Darius, who met Alexander with nearly a million of soldiery. Our modest army, less than two hundred years ago, numbered but seven thousand infantry and seventeen hundred horse. With all its exercise and growth since then it has kept within modest bounds, so far as numbers are concerned, and yet we have no need to blow a blatant trumpet to make known its deeds. During the war of American Independence we had but 110,000 men. In 1800, the year of Copenhagen and the Peace of Amiens, our total was 168,000. In the midst of the Peninsular War, again in the Waterloo year, our total force, including foreign troops, did not exceed 303,000. During the war with Russia 223,000 was the sum of our European force, and we had less than 30,000 troops in India while towards the close of the Indian Mutiny our Indian force was 92,000, and the total elsewhere 222,874. These figures were slightly exceeded in the Chinese war of 1859-60; but we have shown a decrease ever since, and notably in the year of the Franco-Prussian war, when our non Indian force was under

180,000. Thus far, it is true, our military arm has shown no striking grandeur of proportion; but we may claim that it has done its work, done it well, and left us little cause to complain. To this extent, and without trenching upon technical military problems, and conditions changed by time and by modified customs of men and of nations, we may fairly grant that Englishmen, of a genial turn, need not fear to compare their little army with big ones."

## Dominion Artillery Association.

## THE ANNUAL MEETING, REPORTS, &amp;c.

A meeting of the members of the Dominion Artillery Association was held on the 22nd in Committee Room No. 6, House of Commons, Major General Selby Smyth in the chair. There were also present, Lt Col T B Strange, Inspector of Artillery; Lt Col T D Irwin, Inspector of Artillery; Lt Col Maunsell, D A G; Lt Col Worsley, D A G; Lt Col Ross, G G F G; Lt Col Wily, Lt Col Macpherson, Major Montezambert, C A; Lt Col Littleton, Capt Selby Smyth, A D C; Major McKenzie, Lt J Cotton, C A; Lieut Wilson, C A; Capt White, C A; Lieut Billings, O F B; Capt Patrick, O B G A; Lt Col Ford Jones, Ensign Toller, G G F G; Lt Col Kirkpatrick, M P. 47th Batt; Lt Col Stevenson, Montreal Field Battery; Major the Hon H Aylmer, Lt Col Panet, Deputy Minister of Militia; Capt H Smith, 47th Batt, Lt Col Egleson, Capt Wickstead, G G F G; Major Moore, 13th Batt.

The first business was the passing of the following rules, which were proposed by Lieut. Col. Strange, seconded by Lt Col Irwin.

1. That the Association be called the Dominion of Canada Artillery Association, and have for its object the development of gunnery skill, and the dissemination of artillery knowledge throughout the Dominion of Canada.

2. That the annual subscription for individual members be \$2, which will give the right of voting at any regularly organized meeting, other than a meeting of Council. A donation of \$20 in cash, at any time, or of a prize of not less than \$40, to be competed for at a general prize meeting, shall entitle the donor to be elected a life member.

3. That any Canadian artillery corps subscribing not less than \$10 per Field, and \$5 per garrison battery, may become affiliated to this association, the number of membership being one for every dollar so subscribed. With regard to the amount subscribed by batteries, it is to be understood that the prizes awarded by the association, will as far as practicable, be proportioned to each battery relatively to the amount of their subscriptions. In no case, however, will a greater number than one battery be allowed to compete, than the authorized number of marksmen from that battery, as laid down in rules for competitive practice. If possible, a competition for officers alone will be established, for the best scores made by officers, firing with the same nature of gun and under similar conditions.

4. The affairs of the association to be managed by a Council, to consist of *ex officio* members and such others as may be elected at a general meeting, Inspectors and Adj. Inspectors of artillery, the Dept. Adj. Generals of Districts and Brigade Majors, Field Officers, the Commandants of Artillery Corps, the Director of Stores, the Command. Mil. College, to be *ex officio* members of Council, five to form a quorum.