

Point Pleasant batteries. The West Riding Regiment were detailed for duty in the several forts as sharpshooters and to oppose any attempt at landing by the sailors, but no such attempt was made and their services of course were not required. A number of guard boats had been sent out to notify the defending forts of the approach of the ships, but, the day being bright, their duties were not of as much necessity or importance as though the weather had been thick.

The exhibition was only a preliminary to a more important one to take place when the admiral's fleet returns from Quebec, and on that occasion the H.G.A. will again be called upon, as will also, it is expected, other portions of the local militia to do what may be termed actual service in the defence of Halifax harbour and city. It is aptly quoted, "In time of peace, prepare for war," and it must be a source of satisfaction to the local militiamen to know that they are prepared and able to do duty in the forts with modern guns, and employers should fully recognize the desirability of encouraging the men belonging to the militia, by granting them such leave from time to time as will enable them to answer to the call to duty in their respective corps.

The programme for the big review has not been settled, but it is rumoured that the fleet will attack the city in the afternoon, and being then repulsed will return again after nightfall for a second attempt to take the place.

#### THE RECEPTION TO LIEUT. STAIRS.

Lieut. W. G. Stairs, who served with distinction with Stanley in Africa, received a royal welcome on the occasion of his arrival here recently to spend a brief leave of absence at home. Lt.-Col. Humphrey and the officers of the 66th Fusiliers, to which corps Lieut. Stairs at one time belonged, entertained him at Bedford, where several of the officers were camping for the provincial rifle meeting. After the mess dinner, Col. Humphrey proposed the toast of the evening—"Our guest." He referred to the pride he felt in commanding a regiment with which Lieut. Stairs was at one time connected, touching briefly upon his career in Africa with the great explorer. Lieut. Stairs responded in happy terms. He expressed his pleasure at being present with men with whom he had once been associated in arms. He was delighted beyond measure to get back again to his native heath—Chebucto. He would say nothing of Africa. The thought while there that the eyes of citizens of his native town and of Canadians in general were upon him, and that he felt that in a sense the reputation of his country was in his hands, was what stimulated him while exposed to hardship and danger in the dark continent. Stairs received a tremendous cheer and burst of applause upon concluding.

A great public demonstration was organized in honour of Lieut. Stairs, and all the craft in the Northwest Arm, and the residences overlooking it, were brilliantly illuminated for the occasion.

#### ROYAL BRITISH VETERANS.

The members of the Royal British Veteran Society, headed by the West Riding band, marched, on the 9th inst., to the cemetery at the corner of Spring Garden road and Pleasant street for the purpose of decorating the Welsford and Parker monument. Arriving at the burial ground the society and band stood in a circle round the monument. First Vice-President W. H. H. Jackson placed a silvered shield on the top step between the pillars, over which was placed a wreath of laurels. The shield bore the following inscription: "Royal British Veteran Society, sacred to the memory of our departed comrades, 1890." At the corners were placed British flags. While the decorating was in progress the band played Auld Lang Syne. The society reformed and marched through the principal streets, finally disbanding at the drill shed, where three cheers were given for the Queen, Col. Nesbit and the president of the society. The men were dressed in black clothes, and wore red, white and blue silk sashes, white gloves and bouquets, presenting a highly creditable appearance. Charles Putnam, who was chief marshal, had as assistants Thomas Rowe and J. Smart, all of whom were mounted on fine looking horses. There are 125 members in the society, 57 of whom turned out. At the conclusion of the march the band were treated to refreshments in one of the gun rooms of the drill shed. At night the veterans had a supper at their hall. It is the intention of the society to decorate next year in addition to the Welsford and Parker monument the graves of veterans who have died since the formation of the society.

To prove that a cavalryman can cover the ground on foot as well as the better inured foot soldier, Lieut. Bru, of the 2nd Spahis, quartered at Sidi-bell-Assas (Algeria) wagered to walk in heavy marching order, from that town to Tlemcen, a distance of 57 miles within the 20 hours. Starting at midnight, the officer reached his destination in two hours less than the stipulated time, at an average rate of a fraction over three miles per hour, which is a very good performance considering the nature of the ground and climate.

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