

### THE LATE LIEUT.-COL. F. C. DENISON.

BY the death of Lieut.-Col. Frederick Charles Denison, M.P., the Canadian militia loses a distinguished member, and the Crown a loyal and devoted servant. Col. Denison inherited all the military instincts of his family, and his temperament admirably fitted him for the discipline of active service. His connection with military affairs began early in life. When little more than a lad he was attached as lieutenant to the administrative battalion on the Niagara Frontier in 1865, maintained by the Canadian authorities at the close of the American civil war, and designed to prevent any border disturbances similar to the St. Albans Raid. In August of that year he was gazetted cornet in the Governor-General's Body Guard, and served in the Niagara campaign in 1866 during the Fenian Raid. During his service in 1865 one of his comrades in arms was Col. Otter. In 1872 he became captain, four years later major, and in 1884 lieutenant-colonel. When in 1870 Colonel Sir Garnet Wolseley commanded the military expedition to Red River, Lieut. Denison and Capt. Huyshe, of the regular army, were his aides-de-camp, and in Capt. Huyshe's book, "The Narrative of the Red River Expedition," are many references to "D. and I." For his services on this occasion young Denison was mentioned in the despatches, and throughout his whole life a warm friendship existed between him and the present Commander-in-Chief of the army. Later on he entered public life, and devoted a good deal of his time to municipal affairs. In 1884 he was chairman of the Executive Committee of the Toronto City Council, and was generally regarded as in the direct succession to the mayoralty of the city. In that year the proposition to employ the services of Canadian voyageurs was spoken of, and, immersed in other affairs, Col. Denison at first had no idea that he would be called to the command of the Canadian contingent. When, however, the Imperial authorities resolved to employ a Canadian force, General Wolseley cabled to Canada: "Send a Red River officer, Denison preferred." At once, Col. Denison, on

hearing that his old commanding officer had expressed such a wish, decided to go to Egypt, although as a militia officer he was not called upon to serve outside of Canada. He made personal sacrifices of which the public knew nothing, but let nothing stand in the way of doing his duty. In a short time, therefore, he organized the corps required, and on September 15, 1884, they sailed from Quebec. Under his command the Canadian Voyageurs undertook the conduct of the expedition up the Nile. With General Earle's column he fought at the battle of Kibekán, and his merit gained a deserved recognition. His gallant conduct won him

turning to Canada was greeted with enthusiastic praise for his soldier-like and creditable conduct throughout. In 1887 he was elected to the House of Commons for West Toronto, and on again standing for the constituency in 1891 was re-elected by an immense majority. In 1894 he commanded the Biscley team from Canada. He wrote the historical record of the Governor-General's Body Guard, and was a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society of England. His death drew forth in the House of Commons warm eulogies from Sir Charles Tupper, Mr. Laurier, and his fellow members from Toronto, who referred specially to the strength and sincerity of his convictions and the conscientious motives which always guided his conduct.

An illustration of the courageous character and moral fibre of the deceased officer was afforded by his death. For some months he had been afflicted with cancer of the liver, and submitted to a painful operation with composure. When this failed to remedy the disease, and it became known to him that ultimate recovery was impossible, he preferred to face death with the calm unflinching courage of a true soldier. Aware that his death was a matter of a short time, he employed what strength was left to him in arranging his affairs and bearing the pain of disease with a cheerful courage and constant thoughtfulness for others. A day or two before his death he summoned all his flagging energies to get down stairs as usual, and when the end came finally he passed away peacefully and calmly. At his funeral there gathered an immense con-



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special mention from Lord Wolseley; his rewards were an Egyptian medal and two clasps for his part at Kibekán, and the decoration of C.M.G. for his services in the whole campaign. In the House of Commons he was specially referred to by the Marquis of Hartington in a vote of thanks to the British troops. Before leaving Egypt he caught enteric fever, and for a long time lay unconscious in the hospital at Cairo, nearly succumbing to the disease, and receiving many marks of kindness from Lord and Lady Wolseley during his illness. His good constitution pulled him through, and on re-

course of people to pay a last tribute of respect to a man whose career had been throughout entirely creditable to him as a politician, a citizen, a military man, and a loyal subject of his sovereign. The remains were taken to the old private burial place of the Denisons on the Humber, near Weston, where have been interred during the last hundred years other members of the family, whose zeal and faithfulness in the cause of the British Crown are matters of record. Several old soldiers who had served under him in the Niagara Frontier campaigns, were at the grave.