

ordinates they must see to themselves, yet they must not weaken the chain of responsibility by doing too much. I have sketched a difficult task I admit, but I do not know of any position in life the duties of which require greater care and diligence than those of an officer in our force, nor upon whose proper discharge such important results depend. I firmly believe that, whether by accident or by the far-seeing wisdom of our rulers, we have devised the best practical method of providing a force for the defence of this country in its present condition, and capable of expansion with the expansion of our political responsibilities. The drill and discipline of that force mainly depends, I believe, upon the efficiency and good conduct of its officers, upon whom therefore rests a responsibility not lightly to be undertaken, and not easily discharged. If, therefore, in the preceding remarks, offered with great diffidence, but with an earnest desire to promote the welfare of the service, I have thrown any light upon subjects in which we all are so deeply interested, I shall feel that the time and attention which those present have given them has not been altogether thrown away.

A RHYME OF THE RIDEAU.

(After Nobody.)

On the Rideau range the sun rose high  
 And sparkled on the Rideau water,  
 And the hopes of the Riflemen shone in each eye  
 As they thought of the coming slaughter.

Old Thomas he stood like a statue cold  
 As cool as a green cucumber,  
 And though he was questioned oft by the bold

His answers were few in number ;  
 For he kept his eye on the changing wind  
 And debated the —— and the V,  
 For he never could get quite fixed in his mind  
 As to which was the best for *he*.  
 And if you should ask that old warrior to-day,  
 And make your strongest endeavour,  
 To find out which of the two he prefers ;  
 You'll be almost as wise as ever.

And all o'er the field the knowing ones  
 Were saying just a very little,  
 And what little they said when boiled down fine  
 Was extremely non-committal.

Then the gun boom'd commence  
 And the racket began,  
 And roll'd along the line  
 Till *Snapshot* was fined a dollar and costs  
 For being on number nine ;  
 Then Inman laughed, a fiendish laugh,  
 He laughed both long and high ;  
 Though he had then got a magpie low  
 Through that growth just above his eye,  
 Then up from the mound rose two great shots,  
 They danced and capered with glee ;  
 For Pringle had just made 34,  
 And Davidson 33.  
 And so the merry match went on,  
 While fortunes rose and fell,  
 As to how it fared with all of the boys ;  
 I haven't the time to tell.

But more I may say, some future day,  
 Perhaps on the self-same plan  
 Good luck all round, is the maxim sound,  
 Of—

THE RHYMING RIFLEMAN.

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