

MILITARY BALLADS.

I.

MARCHING OUT.

ON THE DEPARTURE OF THE LAST BRITISH TROOPS FROM QUEBEC.

(From *The Canadian Monthly*, 1872.)

At evening the flag of the brave was unfurled
On the Citadel famous in story,
And the war drum whose notes run with day round the
world
Beat its heart-stirring summons to glory.

But the flag in the sunset seemed sadly to wave,
And the drum's martial tone spoke of sorrow;
And we mournfully breathed our farewell to the brave,
For we knew they must part on the morrow.

Knew the dawn must behold the last gathering, the march
That a bond of a century would sever,
And hear the last echoes as under the arch
The column would tramp forth for ever.

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Long we gazed on the bark as it flew from the shore
And fast on our hearts the thoughts crowded,
Of the light of the past that would guide us no more,
Of the future in darkness shrouded.

Are ye borne to the north, to the south, to the east,
To realms where fresh laurels are growing,
Where new medals are gleaming for victory's breast,
Where empire's bright tide is yet flowing?

Or seek ye in sadness, yet proudly, a land
The sun of whose power is declining,
Like Quebec's granite wall round her weakness to stand
Against rivals their armies combining?

In advance or retreat be your lot what it may,
Duty's wreath still be yours the world over;
May the spirit of Wolfe on the dread battle day
O'er the ranks of his soldiers still hover!

Whom now shall the land ye have shielded so well
From the near-lying foe find to guard her,
When the red line no more is drawn out on the hill,
When the gateway has lost its last warder?

Perchance in your fortress the foeman may stand
And traduce in his triumph your story;
But he never shall silence the rock and the strand
And the river that speak of your glory.

YORK.

THE ROYAL CANADIANS.

The corps in Her Majesty's service in which Canadians should take special interest—the 100th "Royal Canadians," raised here in 1858—now boasts an excellent regimental paper, appropriately called *The Maple Leaf*, and which will, we trust, long flourish. Its editor says:

"Our little paper is now fully fledged, and the *Leaf* has been blown over the world in all directions by the wind of the mail. We are highly gratified to think that our hopes have been realised, viz., that we have received a hearty response to our request for contributors, and the literary talent, hitherto lying dormant, has been awakened. And not only this, but we have received several letters from those whom we deem thoroughly competent to judge, congratulating us on the success of our enterprise. Now, after three years in Agra, we have almost got to the end of our sojourn here. We shall be in Burma now in a very short time, where we hope to see some service, and if such a chance should occur, we are con-

fidant that we will prove ourselves (as our fellow-countrymen have done in the past) worthy of the name of the land to which we belong. Lieut. Kelly has left us for 'field afresh and pastures new,' having been appointed to the 23rd Pioneers at Jhelum as a probationer for the Staff Corps. We cannot allow him to leave the Royal Canadians without placing on record the valuable assistance he has given at the various concerts, entertainments, etc., held from time to time since he joined us about two years since."

THE MEXICAN ARMY.

The *Revista Militar Mexicana* publishes an interesting account of the composition of the Mexican Army. The Army consists at present of three classes—the standing army, the reserve of the standing army, and the general reserve, having a total nominal strength of 160,000 men, viz, infantry, 130,000; cavalry, 26,000; and artillery, 4,000. The Standing Army, distributed over eleven military districts, numbers 40,000 men of all arms, 26,000 of whom belong to the infantry, 8,000 to the cavalry, and the rest to the artillery, engineers, and subsidiary branches of the service. The infantry is armed with the Remington rifle. The Field Artillery is very inadequately armed with some forty 3-15-inch Bange guns and a number of old bronze guns; but steps are to be taken as soon as possible to supply deficiencies with guns which are to be manufactured at the New National Gun Foundry. The infantry are also to receive a fresh armament as soon as arrangement can be made to manufacture a new rifle, the invention of a Mexican Engineer officer. The horses ridden by the cavalry are small, but exceedingly hardy. Mules are mostly employed for draft purposes.

All the establishments connected with the Army have a military organization, and only soldiers are employed in the works. The President of the Republic is the titular Commander-in-chief of the Army, but as a rule he deposes his authority to the Minister of War. The Army is mostly recruited from full-blooded Indians, who are very brave and easily amenable to discipline. As soldiers they are excellent marchers, and are second to no other troops in the world on this score, and in frugality and contentment. When on guard or off duty their appearance is not taking, they appear too indolent and sleepy looking, but on parade they have an excellent appearance, and it is difficult to realize that they are the same men as were loafing about apparently half asleep a few minutes previously. *Volunteer Record*.

MANITOBA PROVINCIAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

August 10th, 11th and 12th are the days on which the Manitoba Provincial Rifle Association will hold their annual match. The large sum of \$1,250 will be distributed in prizes, besides which numerous valuable cups and medals will be shot for. The ten men making the highest aggregate score will be sent to Ottawa to compete in the Dominion matches. The Dominion and provincial grants to the association have now reached the secretary's hands; also the Governor-General's medal. From present indications it is expected that a large gathering will attend the matches, and a most successful three days' shooting is anticipated. The matches will be fired on the Kildonan range, Winnipeg.

THE ARMY.

It speaks well for the stamp of recruits who have lately joined the battalions at Aldershot, that throughout the very arduous marches scarcely a man has gone sick; and when one bears in mind the fact that heavy marches, both by day and night, have had to be accomplished in rapid succession by the troops of the column and also by those remaining at Aldershot, in addition to the ordinary routine of work, it cannot be denied that England has something other than that paper army which has been the burden of the song of our critics time out of mind. —*Broad Arrow*.