

less Red river expedition under General Wolseley, we find that that distinguished warrior was made K.C.M.G.; on that occasion Col. Boulton was made K.C.M.G., Col. Boswell K.C.M.G., also Col. Feilding, Col. Jarvis, Col. McLeod, Col. McNeil and Comptroller Irvine. Now, so far as the world knows, only two titles have been conferred upon the officers connected with the quelling of the rebellion of 1885, one a knighthood on the distinguished leader of the forces in the field, and the other, also a knighthood on the distinguished leader of the force in the western block. It is true all the brave commanders of regiments and of brigades and of separate corps received no recognition, but perhaps that omission was made by the honors secured in the western block."

He considered the public had a right to know what had been done and that the government owed a little explanation to the country. As to medals, he thought that the giving them was a mistake; that the volunteers never asked for them, and he did not think many would wear them, and he doubted if some would accept them at all.

Sir Adolphe Caron, in promising the return, took occasion to chide Mr. Edgar on his republican sympathies and referred ironically to his desire to control the action of the Imperial government.

Mr. Gault said a few words showing the importance of the service rendered during the Fenian raids, which Mr. Edgar showed an inclination to belittle, and Sir Richard Cartwright closed the debate by repudiating Mr. Edgar's republican sentiments, and pointing out to the government that in the bestowal of honors the customs of the service deserved to be regarded.

"Had this thing," he continued, "happened in the regular service, there can be no doubt whatever that one conclusion could have been drawn, and that is, that the officer in command was not the only one who deserved well of Her Majesty's government. Now, I am quite sure that the Ministers, that this House and the country, will agree with me in saying that the officers and men who served on that occasion deserve all the recognition that their country could give them, and, by implication, that they deserve, I think, the usual recognition at the hands of Her Majesty's government in that matter, of course, are, as the hon. member remarked, the fountain of honor, but being at a distance of three or four thousand miles they must have derived their information from Her Majesty's advisers on this side of the ocean. I think, sir, that when the government comes to reflect they will see that, bearing in mind the custom of the English service, this omission to recognize any of the gallant men except the officer in command, has been, to say the least of it, unfortunate, and that it would be well that it should be remedied. It is a pity, I think, that it has not been remedied earlier. Now, I am quite aware that the distribution of honors of the kind is more or less invidious, is more or less troublesome, and it may well be said that it would give rise to a certain amount of heart-burning that unfortunately might exist on such an occasion. But I submit that it is part of the necessary duties of a government to make a selection on their responsibility, in taking all the pains they can to inform and advise themselves as to whom are the parties best entitled to the recognition. The House should recollect that we were in a very serious dilemma about a year ago, and it was mainly due to the gallantry of the officers and men who formed that North-west expedition, that what might have been an exceedingly dangerous revolt, was promptly suppressed before it was possible for it to spread to the Indian tribes, and I doubt, with all due respect to my gallant friends who took a share in suppressing the Fenian raid in 1869-70, or in the first expedition to Red river, if any men rendered better service to their country—and in rendering service to their country they rendered service to the British Empire be it remembered—than did the officers and men that took a share in the expedition of 1885; and, therefore, although it is not for me, although it is not for us to dictate to Her Gracious Majesty what she should be pleased to do in the matter of honors, I think it might be as well that in some indirect method or fashion that expression of opinion, which I venture to say is shared by a great many gentlemen on both sides of the House, should be brought through the proper channel to the notice of Her Most Gracious Majesty, who may, when it is brought before her, be thoroughly depended upon to do what is right and proper in this matter."

#### NOTIONS OF A NOODLE.—XIII.

MY DEAR MISTY—I have got through another page or two of the General's report, encountering many useful suggestions that we may safely say will never be adopted. On page xxi we come to equipment, and the valise is suggested as a change from the knapsack. If the necessity for a peddler's outfit is still considered the thing, why the change certainly is for the better, though it is a toss up which of the two renders a man the more miserable; and when we consider that on service they always go in the wagons, while at yearly camps the men have nothing to put in them, one feels the questionable propriety of wasting a good argument. Many imbeciles, however, will find amusement in observing our volunteers parading at camp in valises loaded with hay, which are chucked into a cart on the war path. There is no regulation which arranges for the transporting of hay on the shoulders or small of the back, but as the only articles issued for camp work (our schools for war) are a tunic and pair of trousers, it has become a habit with the Canadian troops to sacrifice the tempting prospect of a stuffed valise to the necessary comfort of a protected person. Decency therefore dictates the use of hay, and as the admiring public are not in the secret, little or no harm follows this curious custom. Now if the brave fellows had squad bags in their tents, they would have a useful receptacle for any extras they possessed, and would march naturally

and freely before the eyes of their sweethearts, which graceful movement would become wonderfully enhanced by the buoyant reflection, "there is no deception about this party." It is little things like this haymaking subject that often cause "noodles" to reflect on the want of self-reliance we possess in not selecting our own implements to do our own work with. We should no more hang on our back an unwieldy valise, because it is said to be the correct thing in the Imperial army, than we should have attempted to pull the guns from St. John to Quebec, during the Trent affair, on the blundering sleighs constructed in Woolwich for that purpose, and sent out to Canada to be piled up as frightful examples of the imperial incapacity for judging the requirements of the occasion. Like a flock of scared sheep we dive blindly after the first prospecting old ram that says "this is the way," and goes plump through the first convenient skylight. Now if the foolish mutton would only pause, and for just one moment consider for themselves, they would see the folly of diving through a skylight simply because the old ram lays down that that is his way, and the right one, of going to the slaughter house. Time hangs heavily on the hands of the regular, he can afford to keep up some useless wummary, amongst other things the valise; the care and work necessary to keep that article in ship shape order but fills up the time always at his disposal. Unfortunately it is this fiddling with straps and buckles that is continually flanted before our eyes as the sum total of soldiering, much in the same way that Lord Wolseley maintains that our idea of battle is formed and carried out by the careful study of the plans depicted on the aged prints of past engagements between the Greeks and Romans. The real work of a soldier seldom, if ever, meets our view, so we see only the gilded side of the profession; and at our yearly trainings, instead of perfecting ourselves in the most important and beneficial duties we, like the sheep, go through the skylight and feel satisfied. Her Majesty's West Kent (North Ontario) regiment, does not spend its time foolishly shooting at a snake fence, and why should we; therefore we put in the period of exercise industriously fitting our straps and stays, and practising the goose step that each of us picked up fairly well on the memorable day when our mother conducted us on our first trail across the nursery floor. After the first half of the time has been filled up gravely doing just what the above regiment does, our strapping countryman, who fancied he knew how to walk, and that he had fairly learned his extension motions, axo in hand, is finally perfected, by wheeling and marching past, and other antics that never can be of service when actual fighting begins. It is true that a day or so is taken up at rifle practising, but as it is an unimportant matter, and only a few rounds are supplied, the sooner they are blazed away the better, and they are blazed, not at any distance necessary to a novice, but at Queen's ranges, 200, 500 and 600. These long ranges bring me to a stop. I did not intend to wander from equipment just yet, so will go back to it. The forage cap suggested is a good one, and is required in the "worst way," which is the most forcible manner of expressing the need of change. The new pattern can be sat on with impunity, and so can the old, but in the latter case there is no use getting off it after the final crush; it resembles the civilian tile in this respect, and is about as useful as that would be on service. We now come to a splendid idea, the light patrol jacket hinted at, similar to those sent out by the ladies of Quebec and Ontario. I can safely say that no ladies in the world except those of Canada could have hit on so thoroughly useful an article as their homely looking serges, and many a man who deposited his tight uncomfortable tunic in the accommodating slough as he slipped into the ladies' serge, blessed the lovely creatures who selected the very best article for any work on the prairie. "Oh! if we had only had them at first."

Again the General strikes oil when he observes, speaking of the cavalry: "I cannot but regret that the expensive Hussar uniform was selected for this arm." As a proof of the foolishness of the pet reason of the advocates for the present garb, they maintaining that its attractive hues would draw a superior and more desirable class of men to the cavalry, there is no vast difference, socially or otherwise, either in officers or men, between the "plungers" and the "mud crushers." It is simply "follow the leader" again, and as the General says, the cavalry man presents a tawdry appearance. It's rough on the troopers, but true. This is especially noticeable in some old jacket purchased at terrible cost by some Cressus years ago, and handed down as each entering and enthusiastic subaltern purchased the garment from his predecessor, retiring when cooled down by time, and beggared by extravagance. Again we notice some home-made imitation as a substitute for some portion of the dress, to be obtained only at great cost from a London tailor. And the absurdity of a Canadian officer back in the country having to send to Bond street when anything goes wrong with his clothes is too apparent for me to continue my letter at present. Yours,  
Misty dear,  
NOODLE.