

sons paint a death's head hovering over this as well as every other noble pastime. It is true that weak backs may not be strengthened by long periods in a small saddle; a man who does not know any better may cramp his chest by leaning forward and using short handles; and there are minor inconveniences incurred equally by the rider of horse and of bicycle. But, taking it as a whole, we have little fault to find with the enthusiastic physician who says:—"Cycling is the most perfect form of exercise known; every muscle, every nerve, every capillary, is called into play—gently, moderately or violently, at the will of the rider." We take no notice of the vague complaint of "dangerousness." If a man "flies" down a hill of which he cannot see or does not know the bottom, he incurs a risk of disaster; but, with ordinary common-sense, it is about as safe to ride a bicycle as to stay at home. In fact, as Mark Twain would say,—if he hadn't said something very like it already,—statistics show that far more people die in their beds than by pitching off bicycles, so sensible people had better get up early and go wheeling.

#### NOTE AND COMMENT.

Bass and Maskinonge may not be caught before the 15th of June.

Col. Harwood, the venerable D. A. G. of the 6th military district, at least his beard makes him look venerable,—sang last Sunday in Notre Dame Church, Montreal, the same piece that he had sung just fifty years before, when a boy of eleven.

The remark may seem incongruous, but the above piece of news irresistibly connected itself in our mind with an announcement of another kind that comes from the States. This is that the yacht "America," which carried off the Queen's Trophy to a foreign shore some twenty years ago, is still in existence. As if that were not audacity enough, she is being "fixed" by her owner, the redoubtable General Ben Butler, in order to do battle this year with the yachts that will meet the "Galatea."

Volunteers do not care, in these days of rush and worry, about sacrificing their few holidays to military parades. There was not a single review of any consequence from one end of Canada to the other, on the Queen's Birthday. But that does not signify any lack of *esprit de corps*,—for the volunteers had many an organized jaunt and excursion.

The most notable, and that which had most of an official character, was the review of the 65th on the Champ de Mars, Montreal,—that old poplar-fringed plateau behind the Court House and City Hall, where the armies of the Iroquois, and then of France, of Britain, of Britain's rebellions eldest daughter, and of the daughter who is still proud to wear the old name,—where all these have in turn been mustered.

Some of the circumstances which lent lustre to the ceremony, doubtless, had a personal cause.

Lady Middleton is a Montreal French-Canadian, and Sir Frederick was of course interested in a regiment recruited from that section of our fellow countrymen. The presence of a Canadian Commander-in-Chief at a review, after his coming has been heralded in the papers, is about as problematical as the fulfilment of their respective fixtures by Sims Reeves, Mr. Spurgeon, or that great oarsman, Courtney.

But there were plenty of good reasons why the 65th should be honoured, of all the regiments and fragments of regiments that covered heathen distances in the infinite North West last year, none deserved better of their country than the Frenchmen, who left Montreal amid disheartening criticism and half-sneering scepticism. The fortune of war ordained that the Midlanders and 90th and Grenadiers should capture Batoche, and the Queen's Own hold Poundmaker at bay, and that the 65th should have a comparatively slight baptism of fire. But what they missed in glory they made up in hard work. Their long marches up from Calgary to Edmonton, down the river to Fort Pitt, up and down in that region dancing attendance on Big Bear, then away to Beaver River and back again, added to those atrocious "gaps" on the Canadian Pacific, made a campaign worth speaking of. No one who saw those gallant little fellows trudging through bog and brush to the lively strains of "Brigadier" or "La Marseillaise," only stopping now and then to drag guns and waggons through creeks where horses failed, will ever lose his admiration for their soldierly qualities. The medals that were pinned on the breasts of the 65th Battalion on Monday represent perhaps the hardest work of the campaign.

The trial fours of the Lachine Rowing Club comes off on the 12th June, the entries close on the 28th inst., and the crews will be picked by the captain on Saturday. There will in all probability be nine crews competing, and the contest for the medals is sure to be a close one. The men have all been rowing since some days, and will be in good form when the race is rowed. Those who wish to enjoy an afternoon of good aquatic sport, had better take the train to Lachine on the 12th of June, and witness the event. The crews will commence regular practice on Monday, until their "personnel" is known. No idea can be formed as to final results.

Among other excursions on Queen's Birthday was one from Montreal to Lachute, when a considerable number of the city volunteers, the Royal Scots, forming a large contingent, participated in the sports and entertainment got up by the 11th Battalion (Argenteuil Rangers) in aid of their Helmet fund. On arriving there, the Scots marched through the town to the music of their pipers, and their picturesque garb and soldierly bearing excited general admiration. The residents of Lachute turned out in large numbers to welcome the visitors, and the little town was gaily decorated with bunting. An enterprising townsman Mr. Hope, made himself conspicuous by his unremitting courtesy. All then repaired to Mr. Barron's pleasant grove where the sports were held and the long programme was entered on at an early hour.

The sports were under the direction of Capt. Hood, of the Royal Scots, who carried out his part thoroughly well. Among the judges were Colonel Fletcher, Captain Clapham, of the Cavalry, Captain "Gatling" Howard, U. S. A., Major Dudderidge, and Mr. Barron and several officers of the various Montreal corps were also present on the ground. The Rangers were well represented by officers and men, and their splendid physique was much commented on. There is no doubt that with a good course of training such a Battalion as the 14th could be made second to none in the Dominion, but of course in this respect they are placed at great disadvantages as compared with their more fortunate city comrades.

The greatest interest centred in the tug-of-war contest. The Rangers had issued a challenge to

all-comers, and the Royal Scots and 6th Fusiliers promptly picked up the glove, but in turn were defeated by the brawny Argenteuilers. An exhibition of the tug-of-war on cleats and platform by the Scots team was much admired.

The spring four oared races of the Ottawa Rowing Club held on Saturday, were the best ever yet held under the auspices of that club. There were five crews competing, as given in the last issue. As there were only two club four oared boats available for the occasion, the race had to be rowed in heats, and drawing resulted in Mr. Nash's crew having to row against Barrett's in the first heat. Both crews got away together, and rowed neck and neck down the course, until within a hundred yards of the finish when Nash's crew made a big spurt, and came in about half a length ahead. In the next race Johnston's crew was matched against May's, and it was a foregone conclusion that Johnston would win as his was considered the strongest crew competing, in fact just before the race betting was even then against the field, but the result was another lesson against betting on the favorite. At the word go Johnston got away first, and after rowing about three hundred yards had fully two lengths of a lead, then the bow began to weaken, and the rudder having been rendered useless by an accident, the boat began to turn and finally came straight across the river leaving May winner by several lengths. The next race was between Nache's crew, the winner of the first race, and Sutherland's who had drawn the bye, Sutherland for the first half of the race when the others came up to, and finally passed them just before the end. There was nearly a foul here, and there surely would have been one had not Sutherland stopped to avoid it, and there was some talk of having it rowed over, but the referee gave the race to Nash, and the final heat was postponed until Tuesday, when May and Nash meet for the final tug. The result was a beautiful race, though rowed in "half a gale" of wind. There was not half a length between the crews from start to finish, but Nash was again victorious, and his crew carried off the pewters.

The senior crew will commence practice on Wednesday afternoon, and will be as follows:—A. Y. May, bow; A. E. Nash, No. 2; W. J. Johnston, No. 3; J. O'Connor, stroke.

The junior crew has not yet been chosen, but there is no doubt, but that the Ottawa Club will send a junior crew to Lachine.

Hanlan is charmed with the acceptance of his challenge by Beach. The race will be rowed on the Thames course and Hanlan will leave for London when he gets through his present programme, namely about the end of the first week in July. His present arrangements are: The Toronto regatta June 4 and 5, and his Quebec matches. Gaudaur would like very much to have a try at the Australian, and says if he beats Teemer at Pullman on June 12, he will go to England with Hanlan.

The Toronto Yacht club have opened their cruising season by a trip across the lake. The yachts which took part are: The Cygnet, Escape, Rivet, Guinivere, Mischief and Bonita. On their homeward tack they touched Hamilton and Oakville. The weather was perfect for sailing and the Toronto yachtsmen enjoyed their holiday outing immensely. The Cygnet has been re-furnished and is one of the most complete yachts on the inland lakes. The Rivet is still to the fore though she is one of the oldest yachts on the lake. The rig of the Escape has been changed from yawl and she will now be sailed as a cutter, all canvass possible being laid aboard.

The Winnipeg Rowing Club holds its spring regatta on the 24th inst. Eight club fours have been picked, and will compete for the pewters. There will also be a double scull race, and one between the senior and junior fours of the club.

St. John's College, Winnipeg, sports have been timed for the 21st, those of Manitoba College for the 26th, and on the 29th the Intercollegiate games will be held.