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NOTE AND COMMENT.

ALREADY preparations are being made for next season's holiday excursions by the city corps, and the latest in this line is Col. Gibson's intimation that Hamilton's pride, the 13th Battalion, may visit Ottawa on the Queen's Birthday. They would, no doubt, receive a cordial welcome at the Capital, which, as such, possesses unusual attractions.

OTTAWA might annually be the scene of a military parade and tournament of Dominion importance and interest, were an effort made to put the project into shape. Such an affair might well be made a permanent feature of the celebration of our great National holiday—Dominion Day—at the National Capital. This idea is not a new one, having time and again been discussed by military men, of Montreal and Toronto, we believe, as well as of Ottawa, but no one has seemed disposed to take the initiative in giving effect to the proposition. It would be no small undertaking to plan and carry out a military tournament on a scale suited to the occasion; but the event commemorated by the day is worthy the effort.

LIEUT.-COL. O'BRIEN'S lecture on "Drill and Discipline," which we have been able to place in extenso before our readers, will, we are confident, be generally pronounced one of the most interesting as well as valuable of the series delivered under the auspices of the Canadian Military Institute. There are few officers in our force whose experience better entitles them to be heard on this subject, and it is evident that in his military service Col. O'Brien has exercised those qualities of independent observation and reflection which have distinguished him in his Parliamentary career.

A HAPPY thought was that of Capt. Chas. F. Winter to write the interesting account of his Christmas in hospital in Cairo, which we this week reproduce from the *Dominion Illustrated*. The whole-souled kindness of Lord and Lady Dufferin whilst here has not by any means been forgotten by the lapse of years since their departure, and their continuing interest in Canada and Canadians has been shown at every opportunity since. On this occasion, we venture to say, Lady Dufferin must have been quite as proud of

the Canadian boy, as he properly was of the kind attention received from his distinguished friends, for a more creditable representative of Young Canada there could scarce have been found. Upon the close of the Egyptian campaign Mr. Winter returned to Canada, and soon found his way into the ranks of the Governor General's Foot Guards. At Cut Knife Hill, in 1885, he was severely wounded, his escape from instant death being remarkable, and since then he has taken an officer's commission and risen to the Adjutancy of the corps in which his patroness took so much interest.

JAMAICA is of more than usual interest to Canadians just now, in view of the great Exhibition there, in which the Dominion is taking a leading part. Very opportunely we have been forwarded by a Canadian visitor, Dr. Ryerson, of Toronto, a copy of the *Jamaica Post* of the 1st inst., containing a report of a volunteer review held on the preceding day, in brilliant summer weather. The Governor, Sir Henry Blake, made a speech, in which he announced his intention to propose to the Legislature certain advantages to those then serving in the force, or who might be brought into the Militia under the ballot law in force in the Colony, and under which he has the power to call out any number of men. Among the concessions the men were anticipating and anxiously looking forward to, was gratuitous medical attendance for the volunteer force, and it was his intention to recommend to the Legislative Council that all members of the Jamaica Militia should in future have free medical attendance. There would also be a proposal that men who had enlisted in the militia, and officers of the militia, should be exempted from the duty of serving on juries.

EXEMPTION from jury service would be appreciated in the Canadian Militia, and might well be urged here. Juries are undoubtedly a nuisance to at least the city folk called to serve on them, and it seems only fair that a man who has given up twelve days of his time to the service of his country in a military capacity should for that year be exempt from a further call, for jury duty.

CAVALRY in England, as well as in Canada, appears to be a much neglected arm of the service, but there a "cavalry revival" is reported to be in progress. A couple of months

ago, we called attention to the unsatisfactory condition of our cavalry, and suggested the formation of a cavalry association, in the belief that such an organization would be found quite as useful to this branch as to the artillery or the riflemen. Our suggestion was very favourably received by influential members of the cavalry, but unfortunately no one seemed anxious to take the initiative in action in the direction suggested. Evidently Canada has to contend with the difficulty felt in the Mother Country, in the absence of cavalry leaders, as touched upon in the lecture reprinted elsewhere in this issue.

COMMENTING upon this "cavalry revival," the *Broad Arrow* has an editorial passage of special interest to Canadians from the high compliment incidentally paid to the gallant officer recently in command of our militia:—

"If this revival goes on, as we have said, but slowly, the main reason is that for years neither at the headquarters staff nor among the senior officers of the cavalry has there been any one officer of the arm possessing sufficient practical enthusiasm or personal influence to lead the movement. When garrison instruction was introduced into the army in 1870, a keen observer of military matters, a general officer—whose prevision in this instance was at fault—remarked that garrison instruction was destined to failure because there was no enthusiast at its head; and he ascribed the success of the musketry instruction to the fact that a 'lunatic' on the subject had been put in charge. Garrison instruction did, however, grow rapidly and flourish, because the officer appointed to carry it out, Major Middleton (now General Sir F. Middleton), was, if not altogether an enthusiast, a man of strong character, with a good stiff back-bone, and one who could speak out his mind when he chose to do so. Sir F. Middleton's services to this branch of military training have never, in our opinion, received their deserved meed of acknowledgment. Germany had its Prince Frederic Charles, France its Gallifet, and if circumstances had let England keep its Valentine Baker, the enthusiast possessing personal influence would have assumed a similarly commanding position in our army."

A CORRESPONDENT, an extract from whose letter we print in our Rifle News, writes to the *Volunteer Service Gazette* in advocacy of greater prominence being given to the team competitions at Bisley, and incidentally makes mention of "the absence of that courteous official attention" due to the Colonial riflemen competing for the Kolapore cups. We are sure that the Canadians, whilst they would of course have valued any official indications of appreciation of the plucky attempt they made, felt no resentment at any seeming neglect, the unvarying kindness extended to our teams being a sufficient evidence of the good will felt towards them. Unquestionably, however, it would be in the interest of rifle shooting to give mere prominence to the team competitions, which alone are of interest to the general public.

MENTION of Bisley brings to mind the fact that the command and adjutancy of our team for 1891 are still the subject of much speculation, though two very likely names are prominently mentioned. These are, for the command, Major B. A. Weston, 66th Princess Louise Fusiliers, Halifax; and for the adjutancy, Major W. M. Blaiklock, 5th Royal Scots, Montreal. Each is the Secretary of the association of his province, and in that capacity has done service for rifle shooting entitling him to share in the

honours of our representative team. The appointments will not be made until after the annual business meeting, but should the two officers above named be the choice, we feel sure they will fill the positions with credit to themselves and advantage to the team.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF MODERN CAVALRY ACTION.

(United Service Gazette.)

On Thursday, 8th January, before the Aldershot Military Society, Major W. C. James, D.A.A.G., 16th Lancers, lectured on this subject before a very large audience. The chair was occupied by Major-General J. Keith Fraser, C.M.G., commanding Dublin District.

The lecturer, having alluded to the attention in military circles that is being paid to this subject, said: The first duty devolving upon the cavalry at the outset of the campaign will be to cover the mobilization of their own armies and the transport of their troops to the frontier. The Germans themselves admit that in this portion of their duty their cavalry failed in 1879, a failure, however, which mattered little, thanks to the still more glaring want of enterprise or indeed of any definite plan on the part of their opponents. The German cavalry was certainly kept very much to the rear during the first days of the campaign, and in the memoirs of individual regiments we read curious accounts of how the Sixth Cavalry Division came up to Saarbuck the day after the battle of August 6th, and how the Fourth Cavalry Division arrived on the battlefield of Weissenburg too late to do more than listen to the story of the fight as told by the infantry, and spent the day of the battle of Worth in bivouac ten miles away at Sulz.

We may certainly expect in the next campaign to see much more enterprise on the part of the cavalry from the very commencement of the campaign, and probably attempts will be made on either side to interfere with the mobilization of the enemy's troops. There can be no doubt as to the rôle that cavalry will have to play after concentration of the forces and commencement of operations. This rôle comprises, broadly speaking, the duties of exploration and security. When the cavalry divisions are acting directly in front of the armies, the patrols from the Cavalry carrying out the duties of security will merely have to go for information to the former; but as a rule the exploring cavalry will be acting in a direction more or less differing from the main line of advance, seeking to avoid the masses of the enemy, and to gain their flanks. The "cavalry of security" must then push forward a fresh ékelon in front of the main bodies to take up the duties of reconnaissance, whenever the exploring cavalry, by moving to a flank, has left the front uncovered.

It is no longer considered sufficient to form a "screen" in front of the infantry columns; such a screen is of a stationary and delusive character, and can be formed by the infantry advanced guards and outposts. Cavalry must act on the offensive and take the initiative. There are a great many cavalry soldiers who maintain that cavalry should never get off their horses or fight with any weapon but the *arme blanche*. This view rests mainly on the fact, which is never disputed, that cavalry is essentially an arm of offence. But it must be remembered that in cases of strategical offensive operations there may, in fact, be frequent occasions for the employment of defensive tactics. A cavalry division pushes on into the enemy's country and seizes an advanced position, a village, or other important locality, where it must defend itself till the main body comes up. Here is an opportunity for dismounted action, and for this the best firearm is necessary. What does Von Schmidt say? "I want no infantry; my cavalry must help

itself, it must know that it has to do so; it must not, directly a few beggarly companies show themselves, rely upon infantry, and the devil take the squadron that allows itself to be hunted out of a village or will not attack it at once. If it cannot do so I must teach it how." At the conclusion of the discussion after a lecture on "Range-Finding," on February 7th, 1890, Lord Wolseley is reported to have said: "I entirely agree with what a previous speaker (Sir Beauchamp Walker) says as to the proper use of the cavalry soldier, viz., to fight on horseback. It is because I am so fully imbued with this idea as to the province of the cavalry soldier that I am anxious to see added to every cavalry division a certain number of mounted infantry, who shall go with it, and save the cavalry from having to dismount and adopt a line of fighting which is not theirs, and which if called upon to do they will generally do badly." There is one phrase in this expression of Lord Wolseley's opinion to which I think, with all submission to his high authority, a cavalry soldier is justified in expressing dissent. I mean the last sentence, in which the assumption is contained that there is any duty that a mounted man may be legitimately called upon to perform that the cavalry soldier would generally do badly.

The mounted infantry question has now reached a stage of great interest and great importance to the cavalry. The regulations under which this force is organized and trained it is not my province to discuss to-night, although I may perhaps be permitted to describe as a very remarkable and novel experiment in military organization a system under which a number of infantry soldiers devote two months of the year to the understudy of cavalry parts, while a number of our horses are made to perform the double *role* of cavalry troops in summer and mounted infantry vehicles in winter. But when we take up the mobilisation tables prepared for a possible expedition abroad and find that the cavalry division is to consist of five regiments of heavy cavalry and one regiment of lancers, and that, while not a single Hussar regiment is to take part in it, the mounted infantry finds a place, and practically a permanent place, in the strength of the division, will not silent acquiescence on our part in such a scheme be interpreted as tacit approval of what is virtually the supersession of a portion of our cavalry by the mounted infantry regiment? May we not ask whether the relative skill with the rifle of the mounted infantry is so much greater than that of our hussars and dragoons as to compensate for the necessary inferiority of the former to the latter in all the other duties of a mounted corps? Is this the conclusion that can fairly be drawn from the test of the musketry returns? Still, whatever our private views on the subject may be, I can answer for every cavalry soldier that, if the authorities, in their wisdom, call upon us to co-operate with mounted infantry in the field, our co-operation will be none the less hearty than if we agreed with every word that has been said on their behalf. With a view to such co-operation being some day required, it is a matter of satisfaction that the *role* to be played by mounted infantry in conjunction with cavalry was determined with some accuracy by the Berkshire manoeuvres. So long as they accept the position assigned to them when with the First Cavalry Brigade at Ullington, viz., of working with, supporting and supported by the Cavalry, attempting no detached duties, but merely moving quickly from position to position, we cavalry soldiers will gladly welcome their co-operation. But I trust that we will see expunged from the Drill book any such paragraphs as the following:—"Mounted infantry will in future probably form a part of every force in the field; it should move with the vanguard, and may in exceptional cases (this was a concession introduced in this year's edition) be employed in detached scouting and patrol duties, thereby allowing the cavalry to be reserved for combined action with the other arms." I trust also that we may not

hear again such phrases as were used by my friend, Colonel Hutton, in a lecture in 1886: "In a rough and difficult country the mounted infantry soldier is more at home on outpost duty than his heavily-armed and accoutred comrade of cavalry." The cavalry soldier, forsooth, being only at home on outpost duty when the country is easy! If indeed there be any magic in the peculiar dress and equipment of the mounted infantry soldier that adds to his efficiency in his double capacity of a horse and foot soldier, then for Heaven's sake let us away with our cumbersome accoutrements and equipment, and let us adopt the cord breeches or the putties or whatever it is wherein the magic lies. But if cavalry and mounted infantry are to exist side by side, and work harmoniously together, and I trust they will, any such pretences as to the ability of the latter to do the work of the former, will, I hope, be heard of no more. Turning to the much debated question of cavalry against infantry, he said that the conditions for success of cavalry against infantry have not altered since the introduction of the breech-loader. The conditions are the following:—1. The cavalry must be highly trained, and men and horses in thorough condition. 2. The leaders must be well up to their work and able to seize the exact moment for their attack. 3. The infantry must have had their resisting power weakened either by surprise, by losses, disaster or some other cause. When these conditions are fulfilled, we may look forward to seeing cavalry charges against infantry as successful as the celebrated charge of the Austrian cavalry under General Pulz at Custozza. The characteristic of modern battle-fields is the depth of the zone of fire, which necessitates cavalry being posted on the flanks, unless they are to be kept at so great a distance from the fighting line as to be practically useless. Very different from the days when it was possible, as at Minden, for an army (the French) to be drawn up with the infantry on the wings and the cavalry in the centre; or, as at Blenheim, for an army to advance to the attack in a number of parallel columns, composed of infantry and cavalry alternately. Cavalry will in future battles have very long distances to move, as they must move round the flanks to avoid masking their own fire. The great obstacle to long and rapid movements on the part of cavalry is undoubtedly the weight that has to be carried on the horses. I venture to think that the greatest stride in the direction of cavalry progress will have been taken when we shall have made up our minds to put nearly everything now carried on the horse into light squadron carts. Let us hope that we may be fortunate enough in no very dim or distant future to get a saddle that will really fulfil its proper purpose of enabling a soldier to ride a horse without a great probability of disabling him.

Turning to the question of cavalry leaders, he said: Where to find our cavalry leaders is one of the greatest difficulties. They have indeed been few and far between, but whenever really good leaders have come to the front the days of cavalry have been brilliant. Their responsibility has been enormously increased of late years, owing to the distance from the fighting line at which cavalry has to be kept till actually required, which will render it seldom possible for the general commanding to give direct orders to cavalry leaders. What they do or do not do must depend upon their own initiative. A careful study of the letters of the *Times* critic cannot fail to impress upon the reader two important points—first, that no one can lead cavalry properly without practice; and secondly, that the cocked-hat is a needlessly conspicuous dress. With both of these conclusions I for one cordially agree. Let us hope that we may see the cocked-hat disappear out of our dress regulations, and annual cavalry manoeuvres become a recognized institution. No question of expense ought to stand in the way, unless we are indeed penny wise and pound foolish.

REGIMENTAL.

The officers of the 21st Essex Fusiliers are already considering arrangements for the annual camp of the First Military District, which it is expected will be pitched at Windsor. The local press urges the public-spirited residents to make early and adequate preparation for the camp, so that the Government may not have reason to pass by the town.

A military cricket club is being promoted in Montreal. The Government have promised to allow the use of grounds on St Helen's Island. A meeting in connection with the proposed club was called for Wednesday evening of this week.

At Ottawa there is considerable impetus given to Morris-tube shooting this winter, by reason of the prizes offered by the officers of No. 1 Company, 43rd Rifles, for the weekly competitions of the members. The "gallery" is in the disused band-room at the drill shed. Some high scoring has been made, Lieut. E. D. Sutherland and Pte. J. E. Hutcheson each having 100 to his credit out of the possible 105—"Queen's ranges."

The members of the Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, held one of their enjoyable smoking concerts at their cozy rooms at 94½ King street west on Saturday evening, at which between 40 and 50 military men turned up. The programme was not commenced till 9 o'clock, and when Capt. Mutton, who discharged the duties of director of ceremonies in a very happy manner, took the chair, it was found that some of those who had promised to assist in the evening's programme, were not present. Despite this, a first-class array of talent entertained the assembly, and among the performers were: Messrs. Wyatt, Atchison, Tidswell, J. Bayley, Schuch, Garvin and J. A. Macdonald. Col. Scoble of Winnipeg, excelled as a story teller. Refreshments were served at the proper time. During the evening, many interested groups listened to anecdotes of personal experiences, and these were not the least enjoyable features of the concert. Among those present were: Col. Scoble of Winnipeg; Col. Pope, Major McMaster, Capts. Tidswell, of Hamilton; Manley, Murray, McGee, Hughes, J. B. Miller, Lieut. Crean, Commodore McGaw, George McMurrich, L. H. Irving and others.

HAMILTON.

The *Times* reports as "one of the most enjoyable events this season," the annual dinner of F company, 13th Battalion, held on the evening of the 12th inst.

Capt. Tidswell presided and the vice-chair was occupied by Colour-Sergt. Healey. To the right and left of the chairman were Lieut.-Col. Gibson, Major Moore, Major McLaren, Capt. J. J. Stuart and Surgeon Griffin. At the head of the board was displayed the handsome silver trophy won by the company at the recent drill competition, also the elegant flask won by Corporal Hampson for faithful attendance at drill. After the good things provided by Caterer Newport had been fully discussed, the lengthy toast list was proceeded with. That of "Lieut.-Col. Gibson and Staff" was cordially received and elicited responses from Lieut.-Col. Gibson, Major Moore, Major McLaren, Surgeon Griffin, Capt. J. J. Stuart, Chaplain Forneret. Lieut.-Col. Gibson received an ovation on rising. He urged on the company the necessity of turning out at company drill and stated that there would be an outing of the battalion on the Queen's Birthday. The trip might be to Ottawa or Berlin, or some other place, the destination in fact remaining yet to be decided on. He closed his remarks by requesting the company to sing the XIII regimental song, composed by the late Capt. J. B. Young. Needless to say his request was granted, the gallant Colonel himself leading the singing. Major Moore stated that as he had retired to a great extent

from public life the battalion would probably see a great deal more of him during the coming year. He also stated that fifteen of the present officers of the corps had served in the ranks of old No. 6, or F Company.

Lieut.-Col. Gibson proposed the toast of "The Non-commissioned Officers of F Company." He paid a high tribute to the ability of Capt. Tidswell as a military man, also to the able manner in which Colour-Sergt. Healey had filled his position.

The medals for skill in shooting were presented by Lieut.-Col. Gibson, as follows: For the highest marks at morning practice, Corporal Hampson and Corporal Jermyns; for excellenc at class firing, Privates McIlwraith and Richmond; and the flask referred to above, the gift of Capt. Tidswell, to Corporal Hampson. Three hearty cheers and a tiger were then given by the "boys" for their popular Colonel.

Following a touching reference by Major Moore to the late Col. McKeand, of the 90th Battalion, formerly lieutenant of F company, the toast to "Absent Friends" was drunk in silence. The company dispersed, after rousing cheers for the Queen and officers of the battalion.

COMPANY A, THIRTEENTH.

At the annual dinner of this Company, Capt. Stoneman and Col.-Sergt. Bismarck occupied the chair and vice-chair, respectively. Among the many guests were: Lieut.-Col. Gibson, Major McLaren, and Capt. Stuart, Adjutant. The loyal toasts were honoured heartily. After the toast "Our Country," Sergt.-Major Athawes sang the new national song, My Own Canadian Home. The toast of "Col. Gibson and Staff" was received with the usual honours, and was responded to by Col. Gibson, Major McLaren and Captain Stuart. Col. Gibson gave an interesting account of his connection with the corps for the last twenty-seven years. He then presented to Pte. Shuttleworth a prize for the most punctual attendance at drill, Pt. Shuttleworth having attended every ordered drill during the year. Major McLaren presented the prize to the most successful recruit, Pte. Leith. Capt. Stuart presented prizes to Privates H. Dallyn and Ellis for attention to drill. Col. Gibson proposed the toast, "The Officers of A Company," which was most heartily received with musical honours and cheers, and was responded to by Capt. Stoneman, and Lieuts. Herring and Hobson.

THE RIFLE.

The Inspectors of Rifle Practice of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia have determined upon considerable change in the system of rifle practice for this year. The Inspector-General favours holding company competitions, the high men to be eligible to regimental competitions, and the winners in the latter only to compete in State matches. The twelve men recording the highest scores in the State competition, of any class, to be recognized as an Honorary or Distinguished class of marksmen. By this plan the number of qualified marksmen it is thought will be greatly increased, and the grading of them more thorough. The Honorary or Distinguished class, it is understood, will be purely an honorary one, but as it cannot be reached without a series of creditable victories, it will mean the highest honours possible to secure by military rifle shooting in Massachusetts.

The California Schuetzen Club of San Francisco adopted at a recent meeting a number of resolutions embodying a challenge to all *bona fide* rifle clubs in the United States. The California marksmen wish to arrange telegraph matches under the following conditions: Any club in the United States which has been in existence at least one year, members of the team to have been *bona fide* members of their association at least nine months, fifteen men to the team,

fifty shots per man, to be fired on a date agreed upon by the presidents between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., position strictly off hand, palm rest permitted, distance 200 yards, rifle without restriction to weight and sight, except telescopic sight, scores after starting to be completed without interruption, stakes \$100 a side, a judge for each club to act as stakeholder, and, together with the president and secretary of the respective organizations, to forward in writing a detailed statement of the scores to the president of the competing club, German 25 ring target, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. rings, with a 25 centre of $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter.

The annual meeting of the U. S. National Rifle Association was held on the 13th inst., at New York. On motion of Capt. J. S. Sheperd, who was re-elected secretary, it was resolved to change the date of the annual fall meeting to the first week of September, as for many years past the weather has been unfavourable in the second week.

THE BISLEY MEETING.

Capt. G. F. Gratwicke, whose name is familiar to all interested in shooting affairs in the Mother Country, has written an interesting letter to the *Volunteer Service Gazette* advocating several radical changes in the Bisley programme, including the firing of all the main matches in the first week. His references to the great team matches are particularly interesting:—

"I think something might be done to secure for the great team matches a larger amount of attention. They should in all cases be shot at the targets nearest the centre of the camp, and I think the representative teams might be required to parade in front of the offices at a given time, be marched down to the firing points in military order, headed by the band. This would apply to the National match, the Kolapore Cup, the United Service match and the Public Schools match. I am sure that something of this kind is needed to attract attention, not so much to the teams as to the programme which the Council arrange, and so to increase what I may term outside interest in the great representative event of the meeting. The ingenuity of those who are responsible should also be equal to the task of devising some suitable accommodation for spectators on occasions of this kind; whether the spectators be volunteers or civilians they are equally entitled to consideration, and the Council would show their wisdom by making some better arrangements than heretofore.

Whilst writing on this point may I draw attention to what was no doubt an oversight last year in connection with the Kolapore match—the complete absence of anything like that courteous official attention which one always expects to see tendered to visitors from different parts of the world. So far as I saw, no one representing the Council troubled to look after the comfort of the Cape, the Canadian or the Channel Islands teams. The visitors were left entirely to shift for themselves, and when the firing was over they were allowed to leave the ground without the chairman or any other member of the Council expressing to them a few cheering words, which, coming from such a source, would have been valued by those who had travelled such a long distance to attend the meeting."

The council of the National Rifle Association have confirmed Col. Mackinnon, lately Chief Instructor at the Hythe School, in the post of secretary of the Association, which he has occupied provisionally since the resignation of Col. Marsden.

The Watkin Range-Finder for Field Artillery is about to be replaced by the Telemeter, an instrument which has undergone considerable trial at the Aldershot School of Range-Finding, and will probably be further tested by batteries of Horse and Field Artillery service at home, before its final adoption as the Service instrument.

A CHRISTMAS IN A CAIRO HOSPITAL.

(Capt. Chas. F. Winter, G.G.F.G., in *The Dominion Illustrated*, 27th Dec.)

The consciousness of a debt of gratitude of long standing to a noble lady, who, with her husband, won golden opinions from all classes of society during their stay in Canada some years ago, prompts the writer to pen the following lines. None the less also does he incline to the opinion that an omission to make public in detail the facts he now describes, notwithstanding the present lateness of the day, would be a lack of duty towards his fellow countrymen, who, whatever their peculiarities or failings, are, he is confident, always pleased to learn of kindness bestowed upon any of their number, when abroad among strangers, and at a distance from their native land. How much more does this become the case when the benefactor is no less a personage than the Marchioness (then the Countess) of Dufferin, a lady whose name, even yet, from one end of Canada to the other, is a household word for all that is lady-like, gentle and good; and the benefited young Canadian, then serving the Empire with the Army in Egypt, who, simply because he was a Canadian, was the recipient of marked kindnesses at the hands of Her Ladyship and her daughter, then the Lady Helen Blackwood.

After the cessation of hostilities in Egypt, in September, 1882, the British army there was much reduced, only about half of the force being retained as an Army of Occupation, the remainder being drafted to England, India, Malacca and other stations. Still, at the time of which I write, we had something over 10,000 men in Egypt, by far the greater portion of which were quartered in Cairo, where the corps in which I served was also stationed.

During the short and sharp campaign of August and September, the troops had suffered comparatively little from serious illness, but early in October enteric fever set in, and the large hospitals of Abbasseveh, Gezireh and the Citadel were soon taxed to their utmost capacity to provide accommodation and treatment for the ever increasing number of patients. The corps to which the writer belonged had suffered little since leaving England, but in the beginning of November we caught the fever, and several of our members were sent to hospital. In the last weeks of November the writer, who up to that time had enjoyed excellent health, was stricken with the prevailing malady, and, after vainly fighting against its early attacks for a few days, during which time he was generously exempted from duty, was finally obliged to report himself sick for hospital. Our corps was quartered at Kasr-el-Nil, a large and commodious barracks on the Cairo bank of the Nile, in company with the 42nd and 74th Highlanders, and as he was the nearest medical officer at the time, I reported myself to the surgeon of the former regiment, who, after examination, pronounced me a case for the hospital. An ambulance waggon belonging to the Egyptian army was in waiting, and, in company with two others, I was assisted into it by the non-commissioned officer in charge, a corporal of the Commissariat and Transport corps. Our destination was Gezireh. The drive was not far, but quite long enough for persons in our condition. Faint and sick with the fever and momentarily becoming weaker through the jolting of the rough ambulance, I at length found myself among the hospital tents at Gezireh, and was glad to descend from the vehicle as well as I could and throw myself on the grass, which, though it was then December, flourished as it does in Canada in June, whilst we awaited the coming of the surgeon on duty to inspect and receive us over from the non-commissioned officer who had escorted the party from Kasr-el-Nil. I felt pleased at the change; it seemed good to get out again in the open air after our experience of the heated barrack room, and the tents, with their beds of bamboo, looked very inviting and comfortable. In a few moments we had been told off to our several quarters, and I found myself, in company with

three others, all Highlanders, assigned to a large marquee tent, very commodious and comfortable. The hospital orderly assisted me to undress, for I was very faint and feverish, and after urging him, as a good fellow, to see my kit-bag brought safely to my quarters, I gave myself up to memories and thoughts such as a sick man is prone to. I felt rather despondent at leaving my corps and comrades, and now being dependent, as it were, upon a corps which, if we combatant or "fighting" soldiers did not exactly look down upon, we by no means looked up to. This though without any imputations on the army hospital corps. I felt quite mean at being, in a sense, laid upon the shelf, and that I was now more of a drone in the army hive than a worker. However, here I was, down with the fever, having alternate chills and flushes, feeling very miserable and indifferent, and, for the time at least, not imbued with much interest in our army or its doings.

Gezireh was pleasant enough, though the tents were very cold at night time, so cold one would scarcely believe he was in Egypt, and owing to the great mortality which had occurred in the Highland Brigade during its stay on this same camping ground, on the first arrival of our army in Cairo, we were all much pleased when, a few days after our reception, we were told by one of the hospital sergeants that the worst cases were to be moved as soon as possible to the large hospital at the Citadel, and that those who would be selected by the surgeon that afternoon were to go at once. I was one of those selected, and underwent another trip of torture in the rickety old Egyptian ambulance. From Gezireh to our new abode was about four miles, over roads none too smooth, and it is with a very vivid recollection of my misery that I recall that drive. Still I was pleased to go to the Citadel; it was the main hospital of our army, and we had heard that we would be comfortably housed and cared for; moreover, a corps of nursing Sisters had arrived out from Netley to look after the worst cases. The first pleasant impressions of Gezireh had been rudely dispelled by the experience of the cold night air, which the tents seemed quite inadequate to exclude, and it was with the most favourable ones that we passed through the historic gateway of the fortress of Sultan Saladin; through the court, the scene of the terrible massacre of the Mamelukes, and on through more gateways and a garden, with a fountain playing, until we found ourselves in the front entrance of a large commodious looking building, which, on alighting and while awaiting the medical officer, we were informed by a soldier at the door, was the Palace of the Citadel, now used as the main hospital of our army, and in which upwards of 800 patients were undergoing treatment. The ride and the excitement of the moving, had, in a measure, livened me up, but I was still so faint, that in endeavoring to mount the staircase leading to the fever wards above, I swooned, and would have fallen but for an hospital orderly near by. The surgeon noting this, at once directed that I be put to bed and attended to. I remember being taken in a large room which seemed full of beds, with pale, washed-out looking occupants, and being tucked away in a little iron bed cot, similar to that used in the barracks in England, by a sturdy kind-hearted fellow of the hospital corps. Of the remainder of that afternoon I have but little recollection, except a hazy vision of a blue-coated orderly coming occasionally with cool ice-cloths for my forehead, or cooling drinks of lime water. The next day passed as indistinctly, but I have a vivid recollection of the surgeon's visit on the following evening. He was a handsome young officer of about 25 or so, Dr. Turner by name, and was fated, poor fellow, to die of fever away up the Nile, on the subsequent ill-fated expedition to relieve General Gordon. I can remember him so well taking my temperature and feeling my pulse, and then telling me in very serious tones that he thought it right to inform me that he feared I would not live till morning. I recollect so well, after hearing him caution the attendant

orderly to call him upon any change taking place, and when he had gone, how I tried to realize that I was really dying. I thought his words over in a confused sort of way, but somehow they did not seem to alarm me so much—I did not seem to feel very much concerned, and yet I might be dead before morning—so he said; but though I cogitated long into the night in a confused sort of way, I felt that I was not going to die just then, and that somehow I would pull through. I thought of Canada and home, and many things, but all in a sort of dreamy, muddled fashion; nothing seemed to impress me, and I once felt frightened to think that I was so indifferent to all that previously had seemed of such a serious nature and worthy of consideration. The following morning, on coming to my cot, the surgeon remarked that I was "a tough little fellow," and that he now had hopes of pulling me through, as he considered the crisis was past. That day I felt better, cheered and revived, no doubt, by his words, and was able to take note of surroundings which, until then, had utterly failed to interest me. I found I was lying in the centre of a large stone floored room, which had been cleared of everything in the way of furniture, and cots placed around the sides and ends, with another row of the same down the centre, about 50 in all. The room was lofty, had large windows, and was decorated with paintings of landscape scenery, &c., on the walls; cut-glass chandeliers hung equidistant from each end, and the room evidently had been intended for something more than an hospital. I learnt afterwards it was one of the reception and ball-rooms of the Palace. Surgeons and orderlies passed through going to other wards beyond; bare-footed Arabs employed in the more menial work of the hospital, came and went, and now and then a nursing sister, in plain but neat dress, glided noiselessly past. All went on quietly, regularly and systematically, and I could not but contrast the difference between what appeared to prevail now and when I first visited the Citadel, immediately after the occupation of Cairo by our army after Tel-el-Kebir. Then the sick had no beds, but lay in their uniforms indiscriminately on the floor in hundreds. Fever, dysentery and ophthalmia were then the most prevalent diseases, and so numerous were the cases that even in the Citadel, where, at the time of which I write, there were over 800 patients, sufficient room could not be found for them, and as fast as those able to bear the journey could be conveyed away, they were shipped by train to Alexandria to be transferred to Cyprus or Malta, where invalid hospitals had been established.

To return, however, to myself. The day on which I had begun to mend was an exceedingly warm one, though it was the 9th of December. Early in the afternoon I had fallen into a doze, more or less sound, when I was awakened by hearing a very sweet voice, in accents quite new and unknown to me, ask me if I should like a paper. On opening my eyes I was much surprised to see a very beautiful young lady in white standing at my bedside and holding in her hand a newspaper, which, if I recollect aright, was a copy of the *Toronto Mail*. I was thunderstruck at the vision, and completely nonplussed when my visitor continued, "I am so sorry, but it is the only one I have left, and it is an American one too." I replied, as well as my feebleness and surprise would permit, "So much the better. I would like to see an American paper." "Oh, indeed, I am so glad then, for I did not think you would care for it," answered the young lady. "I am very pleased to get it, as I am from America," I replied. "Indeed, may I ask what part?" "Canada," I said, inwardly wondering who my fair questioner could be, and thinking how good it was of her to have a Canadian paper. For though I heard regularly from home, it was some time since I had got a paper from Canada, or heard how they thought there of our doings on the sands of Egypt. But, if my surprise had been great at first, it was very much heightened when the lady repeated, "Canada? Are you really a Canadian? From what part? Who

would ever think of meeting a Canadian here!" I replied that I was from Ontario, though a native of Montreal, and my astonishment was now much increased when the young lady, turning abruptly, left me, crossed the room to where another lady was sitting by the bedside of one of the 42nd Highlanders, and whom I had not previously observed. Imagine my surprise to hear the younger lady repeat, "Oh, mamma, I have found a Canadian!" "A Canadian?" repeated the elder lady, directing her attention from the Highlander to my visitor, "Where?" "Over here, come over and see him before you go."

To say that I was surprised is indeed a mild statement of my feelings. I had heard of no Canadian people being in Cairo, or in fact of any English ladies having as yet come out, and I had not met a Canadian, or anyone who took any interest in that far away land for so long, that I was at a loss to understand who these ladies could be who appeared so interested in me because I was a Canadian. In a few moments "Mamma," accompanied by the young lady, came over to me, and, seating herself on the side of my cot, said: "My daughter tells me you are from Canada?" "Yes," I replied, "I am a Canadian." "How strange to find a Canadian in the army here, and you are so young. What part of Canada do you come from?" "Eastern Ontario; my father's home is in South Grenville, near Prescott," I answered. "Have you ever been in Ottawa?" the lady continued. "Oh, yes, several times, M'm." "Then you must have often seen us?" continued my visitor, who, however, noting my puzzled look, added, "You know, my husband is the British Ambassador here, Lord Dufferin, and we spent several years in Canada." Upon this announcement I was, I must admit, somewhat disconcerted, but assured her Ladyship that I had seen Lord and Lady Dufferin several times. As a matter of fact I had, upon two occasions, seen their Excellencies when Lord Dufferin was Governor-General of Canada, but it was some years previous, and being very young at the time, the recollection was not sufficient to enable me to recognize the lady until after she had revealed her identity. "This is my daughter, the Lady Helen," continued her Ladyship, "and we shall be very glad to have a long talk with you again, for I notice you are now in no condition for conversation."

This was the beginning of a very pleasant and, on my part, much prized intercourse, and which I firmly believed helped materially to restore me to health. Lady Dufferin, for the many months she resided in Cairo, devoted every afternoon to her sick soldier countrymen, and, in company with Lady Helen, visited, on alternate days, the hospitals at Abbaseyeh and that at the Citadel. We all appreciated these visits very much, and eagerly looked for "Ladies' day," as the days of their visits soon came to be called among the patients. Flowers, books, newspapers and magazines were distributed in profusion, for her Ladyship never came empty handed, and the only person who seemed to view her visit with apprehension was the hospital librarian, who often complained that it was little use having rules and regulations when ladies were always interceding on behalf of some patient for their disregard. A few days after my meeting with her Ladyship, I was privileged with a long chat with her and Lady Helen about Canada, and when taking her departure that day, Lady Dufferin asked me if I had written home and if they were aware there of my illness. Upon my reply that I had not, as I had been so weak, she kindly offered to write for me if I would give her the address. This I gladly did, and in due course my father received a charming letter from the Countess informing him that I had been ill but was fast progressing towards recovery. This was but one of her Ladyship's many kind and thoughtful acts to the sick of the Army of occupation during her stay in Egypt. To me, as a Canadian, she was specially kind, and evinced much interest in my welfare. We had many pleasant chats about Canada, the cold win-

ters, the skating, tobogganing, &c., and both mother and daughter seemed to have retained the fondest recollections of our country, and grateful reminiscences of the kindness (as they termed it), shown them there throughout their entire stay. Lady Dufferin several times remarked how strange she thought it to find a Canadian serving in the army of Egypt, and that she had never expected to find one there. She was much interested one day when, in reply to an expression of this nature, I assured her that we Canadians were very proud to serve the Empire under the old flag of our fathers, and that, as in the Roman armies of old, you might always find a few representatives of even the most distant provinces in an Imperial force of any magnitude.

A few days before Christmas her Ladyship was so kind as to honor me with an invitation to take my Christmas dinner with her at the Villa Cattoui, a beautiful residence in the west end of the city, and which had on his arrival been placed at Lord Dufferin's disposal by one of the leading native Pashas. To say that I felt grateful for this marked distinction to a soldier of the rank and file, with, as yet, but two chevrons on his arm, is quite an inadequate expression of the feelings entertained by myself and comrades in return for her Ladyship's condescension. My readers will understand the disappointment experienced, when on application to the surgeon, I was refused permission to go. I was still too weak, the doctor said, to venture out, and the excitement would militate against my recovery. So it was thought wisest for me to remain where I was.

On Christmas Day, however, our visitors came again to see us, in company with some other ladies who had just arrived out from England. Christmas cards were distributed by the ladies to all the patients, and with a kind thoughtfulness exceedingly appropriate, I think, her Ladyship had selected one with a snow-clad winter scene for her Canadian protegee. It will, perhaps, be needless to remark that he still retains and prizes that little card very much.

I am proud and delighted to have the opportunity here of proclaiming to my countrymen the kindness of Lady Dufferin and her daughter, not only to myself but to a great many others of Sir Archibald Alison's army. It was so good of her to devote her time and attention to us. Many ladies of culture and high rank would have disdained trooping through hospital wards among *common* soldiers, or, at most, would have contented themselves with an occasional visit and hurried glance over the row of beds, escorted most likely by the principal medical officer or some of the chief surgeons or officers, who would, of course, make a point of sparing them the worst cases. Not so Lady Dufferin and her daughter. Every other afternoon her carriage came to the Citadel with its load of books, papers, fruit, cut flowers, roses, &c. They came around and chatted, and in a quiet, unostentatious, motherly and sisterly way, with a kind word here, and inquiry there; and many were the expressions of gratitude sent after them by the rough and ready soldiers of the rank and file, ebbing away their lives for Britain in the ancient land of the Pharaohs.

To Canadians who still recollect Lord and Lady Dufferin's stay among us, this statement of the latter's attention to the sick soldiers of the Expeditionary Force and Army of Occupation will, I feel positive, give much satisfaction. Her Ladyship is not one to do for the purpose of being seen or talked of, and all the more for this reason does the writer feel pleasure in being the poor means of bringing to the notice of his countrymen the attention and kindness of her Ladyship to one of their number when abroad among strangers serving the interests of the Empire.

The question of protecting her maritime routes is now occupying much attention in France, and the demand of the Minister for the credits necessary for colonial defence and the creation of coaling stations is warmly approved.

Gleanings.

It is announced that, in future, revised editions of the principal books of Regulations, including the Queen's Regulations and the Volunteer Regulations, will be issued once a year.

It is stated that His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales has consented to again take up the Captain Generality of the Honourable Artillery Company, a post which he resigned when a cloud came between the corps and the horizon some time ago.

The Army and Navy Gazette says: "The men who join the army (British) may be divided roughly into three classes--first and largest, those who, through their own fault or accident, are hopelessly destitute; secondly, men who have got into some trouble at home and want to get away for a time; thirdly, men who wish to see the world and become soldiers. If more men are wanted, more advantages must be offered."

M. Merrillon the President of the "Sociétés de Tir" of France, who is also Mayor of Lyons, has announced recently his intention to ask the riflemen of the world to revisit his country. At a dinner given to the notables of his district command, by General Berge, the Military Governor of Lyons, M. Merrillon mentioned that a grand international shooting competition, to be held at Lyons, in 1891, had been decided upon by the heads of the great association he presided over, and under the same conditions and rules as at Paris. The expenditure and costs entailed by the meeting will be met by subventions from the State, the city, and the united "Sociétés de Tir" of France.

Owing to the intended substitution of machine made horse shoes for the hand made ones hitherto used, the whole system of shoeing in the army is undergoing a gradual change. Certain batteries of artillery, the whole of the companies of the army service corps at Woolwich and some elsewhere, with other mounted corps, have recently commenced shoeing under the new régime. The farriers' tools, previously their own property, purchased by them on promotion to that rank, now pass over at a valuation to become Government property; the contract system, which allowed one half-penny per horse per diem to the farrier for supplying iron and shoes to the horses entrusted to his charge, is abolished, and the farrier works for the ordinary pay of his rank, merely supervising and assisting in the shoeing of the horses with the machine made shoes. The farrier will probably eventually disappear from the muster roll, the whole of the work being entrusted to shoeing smiths. The loss to farriers due to the removal of the contract is considerable; where a profit of £15 to £20 was annually made, the adaptation of machine made shoes affords no margin for profit. Whether a sufficient supply of these shoes will be forthcoming on service is dubious, and although the farriers and shoeing smiths will still be practiced in the process of turning shoes, it is not improbable that they will lose some of their skill in that craft. The profit on the contract formed an inducement to men of skill and ability to qualify themselves for the post of farrier. The withdrawal of this inducement will not conduce to a maintenance of the standard, by no means too high, hitherto attained. In many instances unfavourable reports have been made on the quality, and especially the durability of the machine made shoes.

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Post Office Inspector's Office, Ottawa, 26th Jan., 1891.

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