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Military Life and Army Organization

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[Selected.]

The Blessed Virgin.

This is indeed the blessed Mary's land;
Virgin and Mother of our dear Redeemer:
All hearts are touched and softened at her name—
Alike the bandit, with the bloody hand,
The priest, the prince, the scholar, and the peasant,
The man of deeds, the visionary dreamer,
Pay homage to her as one ever present!
And even as children, who have much offended
A too-indulgent father, in great shame,
Penitent, and yet not daring unattended
To go into his presence, at the gate
Speak with their sister, and confiding wait,
Till she goes in before and intercedes;
So men, repenting of their evil deeds,
And yet not venturing rashly to draw near
With their requests an angry Father's ear,
Offer to her their prayers and their confession,
And she for them in heaven makes intercession.
And if our faith had given us nothing more
Than this example of all womanhood,
So mild, so merciful, so strong, so good,
So patient, peaceful, loyal, loving, pure,
This were enough to prove it higher and truer
Than all the creeds the world had known before.

—Longfellow.

Military Life and Army Organization.

BY PROF. WM. HOYNES, LL. B., A. M.

It is safe to say that the militia and volunteer forces must ever constitute the main dependence of the United States in time of war. A large standing army is justly regarded as antagonistic to the settled policy of the Republic and the true interests of the people. From the industrial pursuits it withdraws for a term of years large numbers of men, and the duties to which it accustoms them tend to diminish their capacity for engaging afterward with activity and success in the practical

concerns of business, trade or professional life. Besides, when a standing army is large the people in general become discontented, and the honorable calling of soldier suffers greatly in their estimation. Begrudgingly they furnish the necessary supplies, and parsimoniously they pay for the military services rendered. But not so when the army is comparatively small. Then it is regarded as necessary to the protection of public property and the enforcement of the laws. The men composing it are treated with due consideration, respect and generosity. They are credited with rendering important and valuable services for everything they receive. So it is with reference to our own small army. Those composing it hold honorable rank in the social and governmental plan, and not a word is heard against treating them with generosity in the matter of subsistence and pay. Military life, so far as they are concerned, is popularly viewed as honorable and glorious. As applied to them, the public find no fault with the sentiment embodied in the lines—

"For gold the merchant plows the main;
The farmer plows the manor;
But glory is the soldier's prize,
The soldier's wealth is honor."

The existing status of affairs realizes the true policy of our Government. But it would be otherwise if the army were largely increased. If its maintenance were felt to be a burden—if it were thought to be unnecessarily large and costly—the soldier would soon fall from his proud position in popular estimation. The dissatisfaction with and murmurs against the army as a whole would not be likely to pause upon the line of discrimination between the whole and its parts. We may see this tendency in the case even of the volunteers who fought in the War of the Rebellion. Many of them have become old, feeble and incapacitated

for work. Not a few of them, indeed, have become recipients of public charity, and inmates of asylums and almshouses. And yet a strong protest is heard against all propositions that look to the pensioning of these unfortunates. It matters not that the services they rendered contributed to preserve our institutions from destruction. By preserving the integrity of the Union, and preventing it from being divided into two or more hostile parts, the volunteers of the late war deserve well of the country. By their services the people have escaped the expense of maintaining large standing armies in each of these sections. The people have thus saved more than enough to maintain in comfort every old soldier now suffering in poverty and helplessness. Yet the cry that the pension list is too large seems to make it appear impracticable to recognize the equity and justice of their claims. The war in which they took part saved republican government from becoming a synonym of weakness, if not a memory of the past. But notwithstanding that fact, only a minority of our citizens appear to cherish a sense of gratitude sufficiently active and pronounced to favor a policy designed to leave no old soldier of honorable record in a poorhouse. Such being the prevailing sentiment with respect to the old soldiers, how much stronger would not the feeling be if directed against a large standing army and the burdensome expenses incident to its maintenance? But it would be supererogatory to dwell upon a fact so self-evident.

At the same time, however, it must be admitted that it is of signal importance to have the people accustomed to the use of fire arms and familiar with army tactics. The smaller the standing army, the greater will be the interest in martial display, and the stronger the tendency to form militia organizations. In such case, martial life is regarded as specially honorable and creditable, and occasional exhibitions of it are attended with manifestations of favor and enthusiasm quite gratifying to common vanity. It is hardly necessary to say that it is consonant with a wise public policy to encourage and promote the organization of militia companies and regiments. Large numbers of young men voluntarily enter these organizations, learn the use of fire-arms, and become accustomed to drilling. This they do without noteworthy expense to the State. Thus the Government is placed in a position to recruit a disciplined soldiery in case of war, and at the same time it avoids the irritation and expense incident to maintaining a large standing army, much to the wonder and envy of the nations of Europe.

This policy should include young men attending colleges and universities, as well as those engaged in the various trades, occupations and callings. But some of our public officials, unfortunately, do not appear to take this broad view of the matter. They seem to think that no higher motive than the mere amusement of the boys exists for including students in these voluntary organizations. Personally, I am far from sharing such narrow views. To me it seems that military knowledge voluntarily acquired by students in a collegiate course is particularly conducive to the public welfare, as it renders them more capable of discharging creditably their duties to the state in war, as well as in peace. It more thoroughly equips for the duties of citizenship young men likely to take places more or less prominent in civil life—young men who, without this primary impulse toward military affairs in college days, would seldom think of entering the local militia organizations after returning to their respective homes.

At Notre Dame young men possessing the military spirit in anything like a pronounced degree, have for several years been afforded all reasonable facilities for gratifying their taste in that direction. That they have not been wanting in a disposition to avail themselves of these opportunities is amply proved by the fact that we now have here probably a larger and more efficient cadet organization than can be found in connection with any other university in the country. The young men composing the organization have been fully instructed in the manual of arms and all the ordinary movements in marching. The devoted and efficient officers under whose immediate charge they are, have faithfully performed their duties in that respect. It would be quite superfluous for me to supplement their work with remarks relative to matters properly taught in what is technically called the school of the soldier, or the school of the company. This evening I propose to say something about military affairs in their larger aspect. What I have to say will deal with military organization in its more comprehensive and practical features. It may be well also to state by way of explanation that I shall seek to make my remarks embody as much information as possible in the fewest words consistent with clearness.

A military company comprises from 50 to 100 men. There are ten companies in a regiment of infantry, and twelve in a regiment of cavalry. In a battery of artillery there are six field-guns. In a company are three commissioned officers and from ten to thirteen non-commissioned officers.

The commissioned officers are a captain and two lieutenants, while the non-commissioned officers usually number five sergeants, including the orderly, and as many corporals. Formerly there were eight corporals in a full company. The company is under the immediate command of the captain. He is held responsible for the discipline, soldierly bearing and general efficiency of the men. The regimental organization consists of a colonel, lieutenant-colonel, major, adjutant, quartermaster, chaplain, surgeon and assistant, and sergeant-major. The colonel is the commanding officer. He is assisted by the lieutenant-colonel and major. They stand with reference to the regiment in much the same position as that in which the captain and first and second lieutenants stand with reference to the company. In the line of promotion the officers who have been longest in the service have preference. The companies forming a regiment are generally lettered with reference to the time of organization. For example, the company first filled and ready for service is called Co. "A," the next Co. "B," the next Co. "C," etc. The position of Co. "A," is on the right of the regiment, while that of Co. "B," is on the left. Co. "C," which has charge of the regimental colors, and is consequently known as the color company, is placed in the centre. The color-guard which is specially detailed from other companies, is composed of a sergeant and seven corporals. Between these in like order, are arranged companies "D," "E," "F," "G," "H," "I," and "K." In camp the tents of the companies are placed in rows with reference to the positions they respectively take on wheeling into regimental line. The parade and drill ground is on the right of these rows of tents, the range of vision being from Co. "A," to Co. "B." On the left are the tents of the captains and lieutenants, the sergeants, corporals and enlisted men being together. Further to the left, and as near the centre of the regiment as practicable, are the tents of the colonel and other regimental officers.

The headquarters of the police guard, which is composed of details of men taken every 24 hours from the several companies, are usually on the parade or color-front of the camp, and at a point not remote from the right of the line. While on duty, the guards are not under the immediate command of their company officers. They are commanded by a lieutenant, who acts under supervision of a captain known for the time as "officer of the day." These are detailed successively from the different companies of the regiment. A police guard usually comprises two sergeants, three corporals

and two drummers, trumpeters or buglers, together with the required number of private soldiers. The number of soldiers detailed for the guard fluctuates with the requirements of the service. The guard is divided into three reliefs, each of which succeeds the other every two hours. Ten sentinels of each relief are posted at and around the camp: One is placed over the arms of the guard, another is posted at the colonel's tent, a third has charge of the colors, three are posted on the color-front, three others are posted about 50 paces in rear of the field officers' tents, and one is posted on each flank when there are other regiments on either side. If the regiment be alone two sentinels are placed on each flank. An advanced post is commonly detached from the police guard. It comprises a sergeant, corporal, drummer or bugler and nine men. At this post three sentinels are kept on duty. Two of them are a few paces in front of the post, on the right and left flanks of the regiment, and so posted as to be able to see well to the front, while the other keeps watch over the arms. Neither officers nor soldiers are allowed to take off their accoutrements while on guard. The sentinels are required to note everything that takes place within sight or hearing. While on duty they walk to and fro on their respective posts. They walk in the same direction, so that each may keep in view the post of the man in front when his back is turned. A sentinel may incur the penalty of death for leaving his post without permission, should a court-martial see fit so to decree. Where a call is made at some point on the line remote from the guard-tent, it is successively repeated by the sentinels between such point and the guard rendezvous, and the corporal of the guard, on hearing it, starts at once for the post bearing the number of the call. Should the sentinel on post No. 7 fall sick, the call would be, "Relief, Corporal of the Guard, No. 7." In such case the corporal would take a substitute to the post and relieve the sick man. From "retreat" in the evening until broad daylight a sentinel challenges every person that approaches him. When challenging he takes the position of charge bayonets. He permits no person to approach nearer than eight feet without giving the countersign. When he sees a person approaching, he calls out: "Who comes there?" If answered, "Friend, with the countersign," he says: "Advance, friend, with the countersign." If several be approaching him and, in response to his question, the answer is "Friends!" he calls out, "Halt, friends; advance one with the countersign." Should the answer be "Relief, Grand Rounds," the sentinel calls out,

"Halt, Grand Rounds; advance, commander, with the countersign." When this is done, and the countersign given him, he says, "Advance, Rounds!" Where a person without the countersign is challenged, in answer to his acknowledgment of the fact that he is without it, the sentinel orders, "Advance to be recognized." When the person approaching is mounted, he should be required to dismount and then advance with the countersign. In receiving it, the sentinel takes the position of charge bayonets. When speaking with persons under other circumstances, he takes the position of "arms port." About midnight the officer of the day makes the "grand rounds." In doing so, he takes with him a non-commissioned officer and two privates. This escort marches in front of him. They visit the sentinels on the different posts around the camp, with a view to ascertaining whether the men are vigilant and attentive to duty. Sometimes the sentinel furthest from the guard-tent is instructed to call out about midnight, "12 o'clock, and all's well!" This is repeated until it reaches the sentinel next to the guard-tent, who changes it into "All well round." A soldier who gives the countersign, parole or watchword to a person not entitled to receive it may be punished with death, should a court-martial so decree.

The countersign is usually the name of a battle, as "Shiloh," "Gettysburgh," etc. It is given daily to guards, sentinels, and others authorized to receive it, with a view to enabling them to identify persons at night, to know whom to allow to pass their posts, and to facilitate the performance of the police regulations of the camp. The officer of the guard receives daily before "retreat" at the headquarters of the command both the countersign and parole. Before twilight he communicates the countersign to the guards. Should a guard desert, these words would have to be changed as soon afterward as possible.

The parole is ordinarily the name of a general or public personage, as "Sherman" or "Lincoln." It is given to officers commanding the guards, with a view to having it serve as a check upon the countersign and distinguishing or identifying persons entitled to make visits of inspection or grand rounds in the night.

The watchword may be chosen from a wide range of subjects. It is commonly the name of a people, place, country or battle, or it may be the name of a person. It is given only when near the enemy. It is designed to enable bodies of troops operating at night to identify each other. It consists of a word given by way of hail, with a different

word for response. For example, were two bodies of troops operating between the lines at night to approach each other, the commanding officer of one would call out, let us suppose, "Sheridan," and the response "Victory" would come from the commander of the other. Such being the watchword received from the principal headquarters, the troops that thus interchanged the proper hail and response would recognize each other as friends, and the serious mistake of a fatal conflict between them would be averted. The watchword might be "America," with the response "Liberty," or any other words chosen from the wide range of subjects indicated.

A battalion comprises from two companies to ten, and a regiment is often called a battalion. During the late war, two or more regiments constituted a brigade, two or more brigades a division, and two or more divisions a corps. A corps constitutes the largest body of troops existing under the American system of army organization. In 1867 a new system of tactics, known as "Upton's Infantry Tactics," was prepared by Gen. Upton, and adopted by a board of officers convened at West Point for the purpose of considering and passing upon its utility and merits. Thus was introduced a uniform system of tactics for infantry, cavalry and artillery. It is designed to make information and experience acquired in any branch of the service available in the other branches, as where infantry troops are required to serve as cavalry or artillery, or cavalry find it necessary to dismount and serve as infantry in the presence of the enemy. This new system of tactics is thought to be peculiarly adapted to American topography and the breech-loading fire-arms now in common use. It prefers the single rank formation to double ranks, and it introduces into the infantry drill many of the cavalry movements of the war period. In short, it aims to combine and make as nearly uniform as possible the movements and drill of infantry, cavalry and artillery. The changes made refer almost exclusively to the company and regiment. They can hardly be said to have affected in any material respect the evolutions of the larger bodies of troops, as brigades and divisions. However, the unit of organization in the case of these larger bodies has been increased to three. For example, three or more regiments of cavalry, instead of two or more, now constitute a brigade. A brigade of infantry comprises about four battalions, or from three to five regiments. In a division of the line there are three brigades of infantry and two batteries of artillery. A corps consists of three

divisions of the line, with a brigade of artillery and a regiment of cavalry. This is the case when it is in active service and acting as the component part of an army. Where the corps is operating alone or independently, it should be accompanied by nine or ten regiments or a division of cavalry. Whenever brigades or divisions act separately or independently, the accompanying artillery and cavalry forces should be largely increased. In such case there should be at least a battery and a regiment of cavalry attached to each brigade. A brigade is commanded by a brigadier-general, while a division or corps is commanded by a major-general. A general or senior major-general may be in command of the entire forces. He gives his orders to those next in rank to himself, and they attend to the execution of these orders by their subordinates. In respect to routine matters and camp duties the officers of regiments are left very largely to the exercise of their own discretion. But in matters of greater moment that require the whole army to act together the orders of the commanding general must be obeyed. Except in battle, or in the presence of imminent danger, the orders of the commanding general are not so strict and specific as to forbid all latitude and freedom of judgment in executing them. They direct in a general way what is to be done, and in doing it the exercise of some discretion, or as much as the circumstances seem to warrant, is left to the officers who are more immediately in command of the troops.

In camp, it is sought to have each organization as united and compact as the nature of the ground will permit. For example, the troops comprising each brigade are placed as near together as practicable. The tents of the regiments composing it are usually pitched along the same line when the conformation of the ground allows. The brigades comprising a division are also grouped together, although they sometimes occupy an area of several square miles. The same order is observed with respect to divisions in the encampment of a corps. However, sometimes extensive intervals are permitted to exist between the divisions of a corps and the corps of an army. When not in the immediate presence of the enemy the encampment of an army may occupy a space of from ten to twenty or more miles in length, and from four to eight or ten miles in width. This affords scope for such military evolutions as may be deemed useful, and it gives the troops a large area from which to procure fuel, water and forage. Camp life is attended with fewer hardships and inconveniences when the troops are thus scattered over an extensive area and have

plenty of room. Camped along a river or large stream, they have at hand an abundance of water for men and horses. In a wooded district, or among groves of timber, they can readily chop and haul to the camp all the fire-wood they need. If there be productive farms within some miles, they can send out "wagon-trains," accompanied by the necessary details of armed men, to procure hay, corn, oats and other forage for the use of mules and horses. Of course, all requisite forage for the animals and rations for the men are furnished by the Government when an army is near or not cut off from its base of supplies. But when remote or cut off from its supplies, it must chiefly depend upon the enemy's country for subsistence. When forage is taken under such circumstances from persons who can prove that they are not enemies of the Government, vouchers are usually given them in return. The Government pays the sums represented by these vouchers whenever they are duly presented to the proper authorities at Washington. There can be no question as to the right of an army to live upon the enemy's country when passing through it in time of war. But it is deemed better and wiser not to do so, unless in case of absolute necessity. However, public property of the enemy may freely be taken or destroyed. This is true as to all implements and materials of war, as well as to things fairly intended to increase the resources and to further the interests of the enemy in prosecuting war. But monuments of art, public records, documents, etc., cannot lawfully be taken or destroyed. The only private property that may be taken for the use of a passing hostile army are food products and animals to be substituted for those disabled on the march. Under no pretense may clothes, jewels, furniture, and household articles generally be destroyed or disturbed. The laws of war forbid acts of vandalism—all acts likely to cause needless suffering.

To return from these incidental matters to the main subject, it may be said that in time of peace large bodies of troops seldom come together in camp or on the march. The forces are so scattered at forts and frontier points that seldom can more than a few hundred men be found together. At some of the cantonments not more than a single company is stationed. Needless to say, consequently, that these remarks have reference to army organization and conditions existing in time of war.

When near the enemy, or approaching a point of expected battle, the troops keep closer together than under ordinary circumstances, and the army is more compact. In this case the area of the encampment

is comparatively small; but as it is always deemed a matter of primary importance to encamp near wood and water, a place possessing these requisites must be found. The brigades, divisions and corps comprising the army occupy no more ground than is actually needed for their tents, wagons, horses, mules, forage, supplies, etc. The tents of the artillery and cavalry regiments are distributed at proper intervals here and there through the camp. All parts of the army are sufficiently concentrated to be within supporting distance of one another in case of attack. Confidence, self-reliance and victory attend upon union and compactness, while distrust and defeat result from aimless and disjointed action.

The camp signals may be worthy of passing notice. They are given by means of fifes and drums or bugles, the former being for the infantry and the latter for cavalry and artillery. However, the bugle is frequently used by the infantry, as well as by the other arms of the service. About sunrise is sounded the signal known as the *reveille*. On hearing it, as it passes from regiment to brigade, and from brigade to division, its notes ringing out from a thousand bugles, and extending for miles along the stream and through the woods, the men of each company rise from slumber, dress and fall into line in front of their tents, where they answer to their names as the orderly sergeant calls the roll. After roll-call they break ranks, wash themselves, put their tents in order, and prepare for breakfast. Within an hour or so after breakfast-call the 1st sergeants' call is sounded. On hearing it the orderly sergeant of each company proceeds to the regimental headquarters, where he presents his morning report. About 9 o'clock a. m., the signal known as "troop" is sounded, and then guard-mounting or morning dress parade takes place. "Drill call" is sounded about 10 o'clock a. m., and 2 o'clock p. m. The corresponding cavalry signal is known as "boots and saddles." It notifies the men to proceed to the line with horses saddled and bridled and ready for any manœuvres or formations that may be thought advisable. At 12 o'clock the dinner signal is sounded, and the men repair to their noon-day meal. "Retreat," which invites to roll-call and dress parade, is sounded at sunset. The soldiers of each company fall into line in front of their tents, the 1st sergeant calls the roll, and afterward, if the weather be pleasant, they march under arms to the parade ground, where they take their proper place in the regimental line. In the course of the dress parade ceremonies the adjutant reads the orders, if any there be, and details for the following day are published. From the parade ground the companies

return to their respective quarters, and the men break ranks, place their arms and accoutrements in their tents, and then respond to the supper call. After 9 o'clock "tattoo" is heard, the roll is again called, and the men prepare to retire. About half an hour afterward the last signal of the day, or "taps," is sounded. Then all retire, lights are promptly extinguished and quiet reigns over the camp. However, all night the weary sentinels monotonously pass to and fro on their posts, and ever and anon neighing horses and noisy mules in the distance unite in a chorus so weird and unwelcome that even a Wagner could hardly appreciate it. In case of attack or an unexpected advance of the enemy the "long roll" is sounded. On hearing this the men at once procure their arms, fall into line and prepare for action. The "general" is sounded when the whole command is to march. It is the appropriate signal for striking tents and preparing to start. When the "assembly" is heard the men form by company, while "to the color" is the signal to form by regiment. The "march" is the signal for the whole column to move. Many of these calls are omitted, and very little attention is paid to drilling, parades, etc., when the army is engaged in active operations against the enemy. In garrison a six-pounder cannon is fired daily at the first note of the *reveille* and the last note of the *retreat*.

When the enemy's forces are known to be in vicinity of the encampment, grand guards are detailed and stationed on all the lines of approach. When possible, they are stationed on elevations or high ground and at points sheltered by timber. It is always a wise precaution to station these guards at exposed points around the camp when operating in the enemy's country. They are instructed to observe the movements of the enemy and to conceal the position and strength of their own forces. They constitute the advanced posts of the camp and are sometimes several miles from the main body of the army. Upon them rests the duty of securing the troops against the serious danger of a sudden attack. I refer to a sudden attack as constituting a serious danger, because, if vigorously pressed, it is likely to throw the army into inextricable confusion and to render its defeat comparatively easy. Should the enemy's skirmishers approach the position of the grand guards, they must be received with a rapid and well-directed fire and driven back. Even if the enemy should advance in force and endeavor to brush aside the grand guards, the latter must nevertheless endeavor to hold their ground, directing as vigorous a fire as possible upon the advancing forces.

Thus they give warning of the attack in time for their friends in the rear to form their lines of defense and to prepare for battle. If unable to hold the enemy in check, the grand guards fall back on the main body of the command, stopping at sheltered points to deliver fire on the advancing enemy, if not too hotly pursued. The paramount duty of the grand guards is carefully to watch the enemy and to prevent surprise. When they perform their duties faithfully and effectively the men in camp can feel as secure by night and by day as though they were a hundred miles from the enemy. Upon the vigilance and courage of the grand guards sometimes depend the tranquillity and security of the army, if not its very existence. On duty they comprise, 1st, a chain of videttes or sentinels, who form the exterior line; 2nd, inside these, a line of small posts, which serve as the immediate supports or reserves of the videttes or sentinels; 3d, the main guards, on a line further back from the front, and forming the reserve for the small posts and the videttes; 4th, reserves of outposts, occasionally placed between the outposts and the camp when the outposts are pushed far to the front or when the ground is hilly and offers obstacles to their retreat in case of attack in force by the enemy. Under certain circumstances, from a sixth to a third of the entire command may be needed for service in the grand guards. When practicable, they should comprise both cavalry and infantry. In all cases, however, there should be a few cavalry soldiers with the guards, so that, in cases of emergency, they can speedily ride back to camp with information as to the movements of the enemy. If the cavalry force with the command is unusually strong, larger details are taken from it for the grand guards, and in this case the advanced sentinels may be horsemen. Two or more cannon may very prudently be placed in such a position near the main guard as to command the road. From the main guard the small posts and the videttes are thrown forward in a circular or fan-like order. The men on the outpost must be vigilant and silent, so as to see or hear the enemy, if possible, without being themselves seen or heard. Trumpet signals must not be given unless there be a skirmish with the enemy. In that case it is everybody's privilege, if not his duty, to make all the noise he can. Fires must not be built at the small posts when near the enemy. But the main guard may have fires in cold weather, providing such fires can be masked, as where they are built behind a wall or an abrupt rise of the ground, or kept burning in holes dug for that purpose. A pile of moist

earth is kept at hand, and with this the fire is promptly extinguished if the enemy make a sudden attack. If the enemy be in close proximity to the outposts no fire whatever is to be built, no matter how cold the weather or how much the men and horses suffer. In this case the position of the guard should frequently be changed. About one half of the men should be mounted, and 200 or 300 feet ahead of the others, who should hold themselves ready for immediate action, keeping the bridle reins in their hands while standing or sitting beside their horses. Ceremonies are ignored at the outposts. Should a major-general venture to go there, he would be entitled to no greater military honor or ceremony than a private soldier. In some instances fires are lighted on ground not occupied, with a view to misleading the enemy. At night half the men of the grand guard watch under arms. The rest lie down with their accoutrements upon them and their arms at hand beside them. They carefully examine all persons that seek to pass the lines, whether entering or going out.

As it is now too late to warrant me in entering more fully into the subject this evening, I am constrained to defer to another time the treatment of the most interesting part of what I shall have to say in regard to "Military Life and Army Organization." When I next address you, which, I trust, will be at an early date, I shall undertake more fully to describe the organization of the grand guards, to show the ends attained by sending out patrols and reconnoissances, to tell you of the march of armies in war, and to give you so far as by language I may an idea of an actual battle, treating it from the initial skirmish to the burial of the dead.

HON. JAMES G. BLAINE visited the American College in Rome on the 8th of last month. He dined in the college refectory, and after dinner was introduced by Mgr. O'Connell to the students, who entertained their distinguished visitor with some patriotic songs. In his remarks to the students Mr. Blaine spoke substantially as follows: "I am not the only American who takes an interest in this institution. All citizens of the United States, though they may differ in creed, look with pride upon the North American College at Rome. You are reversing an opinion which gained ground in America some years ago, and which was prejudicial to Catholics, that America should be for Americans; you are making it appear that Americans should be for America; that the culture and religious training of America's sons is an honor to America and the glory of every American heart. It is for the interest of all religious denominations that its ministers should be highly educated, and the American College at Rome furnishes ample opportunities for thorough and profound education." In conclusion, the speaker wished the students a prosperous career "in their great mission; than which there is no greater in the Catholic Church—that Church which is so widely spread and so profoundly respected by all."

to survive reverses that would have prostrated many; and there appears to be no reason why he should not continue, for several decades yet, to do the Lord's work in his chosen field. But come his summons soon or late, a nation's sobs will chant his requiem; and on the living monument of a people's heart, his name will live as the best-beloved of the Acadian race."

Local Items.

- "Oh, say!"
- Is it spring yet?
- All donations thankfully received.
- No overcoats in class-rooms, please.
- Another man went diving after turtles.
- A new pipe is badly needed in room 60.
- We trust the Botany classes will not collide.
- Thanks for a donation of smoking material.
- Work is progressing rapidly on the new boat house.
- The band and the choir go on much the same as ever.
- The prize package pipe at last brought an open war.
- The boys are earnestly practising for the competitive drill.
- Everyone speaks of the new altar as a paragon of loveliness.
- A new fence is being built along the road to St. Joseph's Lake.
- The St. Cecilians have begun to prepare for their annual dramatic entertainment.
- The boat club will probably present Larkin with a new boat in the near future.
- We had a slight fall of snow on Monday morning, the 14th of May, A. D. 1888!
- The recent picnic of the delegates to the national association of Tramps was a success.
- The special football eleven and several baseball nines were photographed on Thursday.
- Competitions are being held in the Collegiate Courses. They are the last before the triples.
- Six-oared boat crews are practising for the two lengths' race which will occur Monday, May 28.
- It is customary to carry calendars in the pocket to keep track of the "days until Commencement."
- The first championship game in the Minims was played Thursday. The "Blues" were victorious by a score of 38 to 20.
- The First Communicants enjoyed themselves on the banks of St. Joseph's River Wednesday. They had a pleasant day.
- Men have been actively at work during the week excavating for the foundations of the new college building soon to be erected.
- To-morrow will be a gala day for the Senior Archconfraternity. A grand excursion to the Farm will be among the events of the day.
- The boat club members had some very exciting wheel-barrow races on their grounds last

week. Schofield, White and Patterson distinguished themselves as sprinters.

—Work has been resumed on the cement walks between the main building and the Presbytery. It is hoped that they will soon be completed, and thus remove the "eye sore" that at present mars the beauty of the landscape.

—Prof. Hoynes has received an invitation to address the Marquette Club, of Chicago. This organization has a large membership of young men prominent in the professions and business.

—Since the fish have ceased to bite, "Swei" has again lapsed back into a comatose state; but Ball has simply changed his mode of capture; and he still plays havoc with the finny tribe. He runs the fishes down and then kills them with a club!

—Notwithstanding the trials it experienced during the past couple of weeks, the band is once more on its feet. The assiduity and earnestness displayed by the members at the rehearsals during the past few days, augurs the turning over of a new leaf. We hope it will be thus.

—Col. Hoynes delivered an instructive and interesting lecture on topics connected with war before the members of Companies A and B, Hoynes' Light Guards, Thursday evening. The lecture was greatly enjoyed by those who attended. It appears in another part of this paper.

—A large force of workmen are engaged on the new Novitiate building. The mason work is almost completed, and the carpenters expect to have the roof on in a couple of weeks. It is now assured that everything will be in readiness for the formal opening on the 15th of August.

—The six-oared crews which will participate in the race, May 28, are comprised as follows: *Evangeline*—P. Paschel, 6; A. Luhn, Captain and 5; Geo. Houck, 4; F. Mattes, 3; J. Hepburn, 2; J. Kelly, Bow; J. Meagher, Coxswain. *Minnehaha*—L. Meagher, 6; F. Albright, 5; F. Springer, 4; T. Pender, 3; E. Prudhomme, 2; P. Brownson, Captain and Bow; W. Aiken, Coxswain.

—The classes in Chemistry and Physics have been making a series of experiments with some of the new instruments purchased for the Science Hall, and the result has been a renewed interest in these two important branches. Without boasting, we can now lay claim to one of the best fitted physical laboratories in this country. The newest acquisitions include a number of recently invented apparatus that cannot be mated on this continent.

—Interesting papers for and against the conquest of Mexico by Cortes, were read in the History class during the week by Messrs. McPhee, Scherer, Berry, Barrett, Wagoner. The paper of Mr. Berry was especially good. After the readings a discussion took place relative to the arguments advanced. Messrs. Brelsford and Sullivan of the Literary Department, and Mr. H. Smith of the Law Department, distinguished themselves by their knowledge of the subject, and advanced many new ideas with regard to the Conquest.

—Nine men from the "West End" of South