



COLONEL AND MRS. EWING

Above is an excellent portrait of the late Lieut.-Col. Ewing, known while residing here as "Commissary" Ewing. Alongside of Col. Ewing is also the portrait of his talented wife. We believe that THE CAPITAL has the honor of being the first publication to print from the same plate the portraits of Col. and Mrs. Ewing. This illustration, with the accompanying biographical sketches, will assuredly afford much gratification to many of our readers, and especially those who had the pleasure of the acquaintance of Col. and Mrs. Ewing during their residence here: but the sketches and portraits are invested with a peculiar additional local interest just at the present time from the fact that Col. Ewing was the last imperial soldier in this garrison, as when the imperial troops, with the exception of the Halifax garrison, were withdrawn from Canada, it was his duty, being in the commissariat department, in conjunction with the barrack-master, to take over all the ordnance property, barrack-stores, and the like, when Her Majesty's 22nd Regiment left here, thirty years ago,—this Regt., it must be borne in mind, being the last imperial soldiers stationed in this garrison.

On our third page will be found the roll of the detachment of the Royal Berkshire Regt. now stationed here. The departure of Commissary Ewing from Fredericton and the arrival here of the Berkshire Regt., are two historical events of much interest in the history of this city, inasmuch as Col. Ewing was the last imperial soldier stationed here, and the Berkshire men are the first imperial soldiers stationed here since that time. The publication of the sketch of Col. Ewing and of the roll of the Berks is intended to commemorate these events.

Having been conductor of the Fredericton Choral Society and also of the Cathedral choir, Mr. Ewing was consequently well known here. In our next issue we shall publish some incidents connected with Mr. Ewing, which we believe will be interesting.

The following is copied from the *Aberdeen Free Press* of July 20th, 1895:—

On the 16th July, 1895, Lieut.-Col. Alexander Ewing, late staff pay-master, was laid to rest in the quiet country churchyard of Trull, near Taunton, Somersetshire. Born at Aberdeen, in 1830, he was the only son of Alexander Ewing, B. D., sometime lecturer on surgery at the Marischal College. Colonel Ewing inherited from his father unusual intellectual abilities and a highly artistic temperament; he was originally destined as a Writer to the Signet, but, having little inclination for the profession, he was allowed to abandon it and go to Heidelberg to study German and music. Alexander Ewing had not, up to this time, been attached to any profession, but by the help and advice of his cousin, Bishop Ewing of Argyle and the Isles, he eventually decided to join the Commissariat

Department of the army, and went out to Constantinople in 1855, during the Crimean War.

During Ewing's absence abroad the Bishop sent his now well-known hymn, "Jerusalem the Golden," to the editors of "Hymns, Ancient and Modern" for insertion in their collection, but owing to the cousins bearing the same Christian name, the Bishop was often credited with having composed the tune. After Colonel Ewing left the Crimea he was sent to South Australia, and thence to China, where he served during the campaign in North China, 1860, and afterwards in the operations against the Taiping rebels in the neighbourhood of Shanghai 1862. He was present at the taking of the stockade of Nahziar, and received the China medal.

After several years' foreign service he returned to England in 1866, and met Juliana Horatio Gatty, who became his wife in the following year. She was the daughter of the Rev. Alfred Gatty, Vicar of Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, her mother being the author of "Parables from Nature" and other books. Mrs. Gatty established "Aunt Judy's Magazine" for children in 1866, and Colonel Alexander Ewing contributed an Eastern fairy tale to this, "The Prince of Sleona," besides setting some songs and hymns to music, the words of which were written by his intended wife. During this same year Juliana Gatty was writing "Mrs. Over-the-way's Remembrances," and in the opening story she quoted some stanzas from another version of S. Bernard's hymn, and these verses were set very beautifully to music by Colonel Ewing, but have never been published. In the spring of 1867 he served under Sir Alfred Horsford in Ireland during the Fenian rising. In June he was married, and sailed for Fredericton, New Brunswick, with his wife. "Mrs. Over-the-way's Remembrances" was completed after their marriage, and in writing the scenery of the last story about Kerguelen's Land, Mrs. Ewing was indebted to her husband's description of what he had seen in the South Pacific Ocean. The book is dedicated to him. She owed to him also the knowledge and experience of military life displayed in her later writings, "Jackanapes," "The Story of a Short Life," and "Lobalib-the-Fire." Her wonderful insight into Scotch character as shown in M'Alister, the Highlander, also arose mainly from her intercourse with him, and the few visits they paid together to the land of his birth.

In 1870 Colonel Ewing returned to England, and remained nine years in home stations, then he again was sent abroad to Ceylon and Malta.

In both of these places, as in Turkey, his genius for languages was of great assistance to him in dealing with mixed races and variety of coinage. Whilst in Ceylon he studied Arabic, and in Malta—the home of the knights—devoted himself to advancement in Freemasonry. In 1883 he finally returned to England, and was stationed at Taunton till 1889, when he retired with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, having completed 35 years' service within three months.

After the death of his first wife in 1885 he married Elizabeth Margaret, the second daughter of Rev. Anthony Cumby, vicar of Bolton-on-Swale, Yorkshire, who survives him.

Colonel Ewing was a true Scotchman alike in his virtues and failings. Under a somewhat dour and imperious exterior he carried the warmest heart. Never was man more true to the few real friends he made or more loyal to his country. It was a treat to hear him relapse into his native dialect as he crossed the border in travelling north; or to hear him read such Scottish tales as "Mansie Waugh" aloud. His powers of work and of grasping a subject with rapidity were so great that his friends often felt as if he understood what they were thinking of before they spoke, and possessed that power of thought-reading that is due to second sight.

The leisure time of his later years was filled up with acquiring skill in photography and Orthographic shorthand writing; with learning to play the saxophone in addition to the instruments he had learnt in his youth; and with pursuing all the interests implied in the use of the microscope or telescope, and the study of biology and meteorology. During last autumn he lectured on Browning's poetry.

We reproduce the following from the *Somerset County Gazette*, Taunton, England, of July 20th, 1895:—

Colonel Ewing's first wife, a daughter of the Rev. Alfred Gatty, of Ecclesfield, Yorkshire, was the writer of the wonderfully popular series which includes "Jackanapes," "The Story of a Short Life," and "A Flat Iron for a Farthing." Mrs. Ewing, who died at Bath in 1885, was buried at Trull. She had been taken from her home at Taunton to lodgings at Bath in the hope that the change of air might do her good. Her connection with Taunton dated from May, 1883, when Colonel—then Major—Ewing returned home from Ceylon and was stationed at Taunton. Mrs. Ewing, who did not enjoy good health, and who for some time was unable to accompany her husband on foreign duty, felt heartily glad on coming to Taunton to have once more a pretty home of her own, and not only a home, but a garden. Some reminiscences of this period may just now prove interesting. When the Ewings took their house, and named it Villa Ponente, from its aspect towards the setting sun, the "garden" was a potato patch, with soil chiefly composed of refuse left by the builders; but the authoress soon began to accumulate flowers in the borders, especially herbaceous ones, that were either given by friends or bought in the market. It was in 1884 that she wrote "Mary's Meadow" as a serial for *Aunt Judy's Magazine*, and the story was so popular that it led to the establishment of a "Parkinson Society for Lovers of Hardy Flowers." Miss Alice Sargent was the founder and secretary of this body, and according to Miss Horatia Gatty, who wrote a delightful memoir of her sister, Mrs. Ewing owed much of the enjoyment of her life at Taunton to Miss Sargent, for the Society produced many friends by correspondence, with whom the former exchanged plants and books. Needless to say, the "potato patch" was quickly transformed into a well-stocked flower garden. Perhaps the friend who did most of all to beautify it was the Rev. J. Goring, who not only gave Mrs. Ewing many roses, but planted them round the walls of the house himself and pruned them afterwards, calling himself her "head gardener." Mrs. Ewing did not live long enough to see the roses sufficiently developed to flower thoroughly, but, says Miss Gatty, "she enjoyed them by anticipation, and they served to keep her grave bright during the summer that followed her death."

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