

strategy, and yet there is no country in the world which possesses a fairer field for the exercise of that best of gifts to the soldier than the territories of the United States with a line of the most magnificent lacustrine navigation in the world in the rear, and with navigable rivers stretching from the seaboard to the shores of the great lakes, a naval power such as England then was and now is could find no difficulty in striking at the vitals of that country, and in the case under consideration the Hudson river was the true strategical line.

If New York had been occupied by a division of troops its bay by a squadron of heavy vessels and a division of gun boats, another squadron in possession of Albany with, say, 15,000 men direct communication kept open with New York by gun boats and armed vessels, communication kept open with Canada, via Crown Point, Ticonderago, Fort George and Fort Edward occupied, the conquest of the United States or the extinction of the rebellion of the Colonies would have only been the work of one campaign.

For the first three years the whole resources of the United States in troops and provisions were drawn from what had been the Eastern Provinces; by cutting off the communications the war would have rapidly exhausted the Middle and Southern Provinces and it would have died from sheer inanition. In 1812 it had become necessary to control the Mississippi, and the United States politicians hastened to make peace when they found an expedition against New Orleans was in contemplation,—though that failed disgracefully it did not alter the aspect of the case, and it could be repeated.

At the present time it would be necessary to seize and control the Hudson and the Mississippi as far as St. Louis. The control of the Great Lakes would place those two points within 350 miles of the communication through those inland seas, and to a naval force holding one half of North America with a powerful Colony like Canada the conquest of the United States would not be an impossible contingency.

At all events this very vulnerability is a guarantee that American politicians must keep the peace whether they like it or not. As those facts are well known and understood in Canada, although from the efforts of political economists at home, it would appear that the English people, statesmen or soldiers, know as little of the topography of the United States and Canada as Loudon, Abercrombie, Howe or Clinton. The plan of a campaign in the United States has yet to be tried.

RIFLE MATCH.—The 8th Battalion Rifle Volunteers had a match on Saturday, on the Beauport Flats at which Color-Sergt. Hawkins, No. 2 Company, won the silver cup. There were 30 competitors. Private Parnel and Fraser and Color-Sergeant Norris, also won prizes in another match.

SHOOTING AT THE VOLUNTEERS.

On Wednesday night last the officers and men of the 56th Battalion were startled by the report of several rifle shots heard at intervals of a few minutes, and evidently aimed at their camp from some point a little to the East of the Drill Shed. The balls were distinctly heard by several members of the battalion whizzing past, and in very disagreeable proximity to, their tents.—They were also heard in Fort Wellington, and Major White and Lieut. Dowdall, of the R. C. Rifles, came over from the Fort to the volunteer camp to ascertain the cause of the firing. Col. Jessup, Commander of the Battalion, was in his tent at the time of the first shot, and while conversing with Major Shepherd as to the cause, he heard the whiz of a bullet quite close to him. By this time the camp was in commotion, everybody wondering where the shots were coming from. At length it was suspected, from the direction in which the balls came and other circumstances, that it was Henry Marshall, painter, who was making a target of the camp. Accordingly Major White and Captain Armstrong of the Volunteers were despatched by Col. Jessup with a picket to Marshall's house, and when within 150 feet of it they saw a flash and heard a shot proceed from the premises. On reaching the house they found Marshall with a rifle in his possession which had evidently been quite recently fired, and which was reloaded and capped ready for another shot. The picket thereupon arrested Marshall and placed him in the guard room at Fort Wellington for safe keeping. Next morning he was delivered over to the custody of the civil authorities, and brought before the Mayor and M. Gray, Esq., for examination, on the charge of firing off several rifle shots with the intent to do grievous bodily injury to some of the members of the 56th Battalion. After a careful investigation of the charge, a good many witnesses being heard, the Court committed Marshall to Brockville to await his trial for the offence. No bail being allowed, Marshall was accordingly sent up to gaol. The alleged motive for this serious crime is a feeling of hatred said to be entertained by Marshall against several officers of the volunteer force. Whatever may have been the motive, there can be no question as to the outrageous nature of the offence which was prevented from being a murder only by the interposition of Providence. It is a matter of thankfulness that no one was hurt.—*Prescott Telegraph.*

INSPECTION OF THE 56TH BATTALION.

On Wednesday afternoon last, the 56th Battalion of Volunteer Militia was inspected in the Fort Field by Col. Atcherley D.A.A.G. assisted by Brigade Major Jackson. The Battalion presented a really fine, soldier-like appearance and went through a series of movements in very creditable style.—The Battalion Band enlivened the proceedings, by playing a variety of appropriate airs. After the inspection which was carefully and minutely performed, Col. Atcherley addressed the Battalion in complimentary terms.—He gave both officers and men credit for the progress the battalion had made in drill and for their smartness and general proficiency.

The different companies left for home on the following day, having spent 7 days in camp.—*Prescott Telegraph.*

THE 27TH BATTALION.

A week of soldiering, in fine weather is not an unpleasant change from the dull monotony of every day life; and our volunteers appeared to enjoy amazingly the period of their annual drill, although they were not blessed with good weather all the time. They had a sample of all sorts of weather, indeed—fine and warm—rainy and stormy—cold and chilly. It was a hard week's work for all concerned, but the Surgeon had no sickness to report—all being in excellent health and spirits. Six hours of drill were put in daily, and it was remarkable to observe the great improvement made in drill, internal economy and general management, in so short a time. The Battalion was reviewed on Monday afternoon by Lt. Col. Taylor, D.A.C., and complimented very highly for their efficiency, Lt. Col. Moffit, Brigade Major, was also present. A pleasing feature of the proceedings was the presentation of a handsome sword to the Adjutant, Charles Fisher, by the Warwick Company, Capt. Kingston, in a neat speech, in behalf of his Company made the presentation, to which the Adjutant replied in excellent taste. In our next issue we shall endeavor to find room for both address and reply. On Sunday the Battalion attended divine service in St. George's Church when the Chaplain, Rev. J. C. Gibson preached an eloquent discourse.

On Tuesday morning they broke camp, the various Companies leaving for home. The conduct of the men was extremely praiseworthy; and with the exception of one man who indulged the first day in an extra potation of "old rye" before things had been put in "ship shape" there were no complaints. The strictest discipline was maintained, and camp life taught by an old campaigner, Capt. Parsons, who was present for that purpose.

SHOOTING MATCH AND PIC-NIC.

A county shooting match will take place at Vernon, on Tuesday, the 19th inst., and following day. The first day will be chiefly devoted to Volunteer matches, the second day to a pic-nic and county match for the silver cup presented by Dr. Grant, M.P., and a silver watch presented by Mr. Pace, Jeweller, Ottawa. Several other excellent prizes have been kindly and liberally contributed by the following gentlemen of Ottawa city: Mr. Allen, Rideau street, a silver buttercup; Mr. Notman, a large first class photograph of the winner; Mann Bros., a patent churn; G. Mortimer, a gentleman's dressing case; Davidson & Daniels, a toilet case, H. F. MacCarthy, a pair of vases; Blyth & Kerr, a thermometer; Borbridge Bros., a satchel; I. B. Lackaberry, an album. Kenmore. B. Brinnen, a pair of tweed pants; J. H. Cassels, a pair of kip boots; D. Fisher, a tweed vest.. Metcalf: W. Allen, a tweed vest; W. Campbell, cash \$3.

Various smaller sums have been contributed by gentlemen from Osgoode and Russell, making the whole a very respectable list of prizes.

It is pleasing to observe so marked an interest displayed in bringing out the good marksmen of Russell, and we trust the pic-nic and shooting match will be a decided success.

The 110 Papal Zouaves who left Montreal last week for New York on their way to Rome, were chiefly boys from the rural districts. The scene at the station, when parting from their relatives, was affecting and rather melancholy.