

## Queries and Replies.

### RELATIVE SENIORITY OF PERMANENT CORPS N.C.O.

Q. A dispute has arisen concerning the relative seniority of the n.c. officers of the I. S. Corps. Will you therefore kindly oblige me by stating whether or not the sergeant instructors are senior to the colour-sergeants.  
A MILITIAMAN.  
Fredericton, N. B., 10th February, 1888.

A. The sergeant instructors in the Infantry School Corps are staff-sergeants, and as such are senior to our so-called colour-sergeants, who rank only as company sergeants. In the Imperial service, however, the colour-sergeants are senior to all sergeant instructors not warrant officers.

### APPOINTMENTS TO COMMISSIONS.

Q. (1) What right has the commanding officer of a district to refuse promotion to a man who served faithfully in the ranks for years, and was recommended by his captain, and unanimously chosen by his company as its 1st lieutenant, while a man who had obtained his discharge from a different corps was appointed, the company knowing nothing of it till notice of appointment appeared in the papers?

(2) Do you think there was any justice shewn the first?

(3) If there is no chance of rising above a certain rank, say that of sergeant, what is there to stimulate a large number of the militia to study drill, or to serve at all in the ranks?

### VOLUNTEER

A. (1) The officer commanding a district may refuse to recommend the appointment of any person, but he is not supposed to exercise his right in an arbitrary manner. On the other hand, no one may rightfully be appointed lieutenant in a company unless he is recommended by the captain—that is, in the case of a rural or independent company. In a city corps the officer commanding has to recommend all applicants before they can be appointed.

(2) The captain of the company practically had it in his power to see that justice was done to the first, who certainly should have been preferred if he were fitted for the position.

(3) A difficult question to answer, if the volunteer's ambition is that he should rise to the top. "Virtue is its own reward," will perhaps have too often to be his consolation.

## Advice to Commanding Officers.

**"So Manage as Never to Have the Laugh Against You."**

IN illustrating this maxim Col. Rolt relates the following anecdote: "When stationed at Athlone in the year 1823, I one day on parade desired the captain of one of the companies to call to the front four men whose hair I had remarked upon the day before. I observed a sort of titter throughout the companies, which broke into a decided laugh when, on being directed to take off their caps, the four fellows presented four bare skulls. Thinking to have the laugh against me, they had cut their hair almost as close as if their heads had been shaved. The attempt to turn an order into ridicule is almost enough to try a commanding officer's amiability, but with a little effort I kept myself cool, for it occurred to me that if I got angry I should have the laugh against me, so instead of showing that I was annoyed I joined in the laugh, which then became loud and general. After a little I said: "Well, I am sure you are four good humoured fellows to have afforded us all so much amusement; but although I am very glad in this way to have a laugh among ourselves, yet I should not like strangers to laugh at us." I then asked the captain how long he thought it would take before the men's hair would grow sufficiently for them to appear in public. He replied, six weeks. I then said to the men, "I should be quiet distressed if your sweethearts were to see you in so unbecoming a plight, and, therefore, I am forced to order you to be confined to barracks for six weeks." The four fellows looked very silly, and I do not think that they ever again tried to turn any order of mine into ridicule.

If I was a Captain or a Colonel, I would rather be a Drum Major, and have a fur hat like a bar, and a long scepter with a gold nub on the end for to wack the enemies with and to knock their General down and take all his candy away, and his marbles and his top and everything.—*Johnny's composition in the San Francisco Examiner.*

### A PRINTER REPORTER.

One day during the encampment the managing editor of the Houston (Tex.) Post found he was short a man to report part of the proceedings on the grounds. Spying the foreman of the composing room, he requested him to take notes of a company drill, and this is the way he did it:

"Promptly at ten o'clock the company marched upon the ground and was received by a burst of applause. Immediately the father of the chapel called time, and the foreman of the company began to call off by slugs. When he called out Slug 1, they unfixed bayonets, and kept on through the manual by numbers. The company was made up of numerous wrong fonts, there being a pica man alongside of a minion one, and a brevier boy alongside of a nonpareil one. In company front the line was very unevenly justified, there being a three-em space between some numbers, while between others there was a three-em quad. In platoon movements the fellow who acted as right hyphen slipped below the line, and all three proof readers commenced to mark errors. In wheeling left in circle one handful got badly squabbled, and when they went to call off a phalanx of four to send to the centre the whole form got pica and the proof-readers and copy-holders again got their work in. In marching in columns of fours another bad company error was made. Some thought they had got a price-and-a-half table off the file, while others evidently thought they had struck four columns of figures and words, and put in a period when they should only have used a comma, in making time around drill ground. When

the assistant foreman was ordered to make up a four-page form, he made a serious error, having only a pica between two pages, while between others there was four-line pica. In marching in double rank the first three lines were solid, while the remainder were leaded and double-leaded, which is not in accordance with tactics. The foreman, assistant foreman, proof-readers and copy-holder all had column rules, which some of them brandished finely. After the United States proof-readers were through marking errors the company passed out amid a storm of applause. Time, 27 minutes, 11.64 seconds."

And he drank nothing but beer, either.

### SENATOR EVARTS' HUMOUR.

Hon. William M. Evarts, writes Eli Perkins, is the only man except Chauncey Depew who can be witty and not lose his dignity. Mr. Evarts sat at our table at the States yesterday.

Speaking of Mr. Evarts' farm up at Windsor, I told him I understood that he raised a large quantity of pigs for the express purpose of sending barrels of pig pork to his friends.

"Yes, I am guilty of that," said Mr. Evarts. "I've been sending Bancroft pig pork for years, and if his 'History of America' is successful it will be largely due to my pen.

Evarts says that when the Baptists came to Rhode Island they praised God and fell on their knees. Then they fell on the aborigines.

When I asked the Ex-Secretary about the early settlement of Rhode Island he said:—

"Yes, the Dutch settled Rhode Island and then the Yankees settled the Dutch."  
—*Eli Perkins' Syndicate Letter.*



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