

authorized by a distinguished officer, as "a giant lying prostrate on the ground, who though powerful in outward appearance, was destitute of bone and muscle, and therefore incapable of action." True, it has stood the proof of repeated calls for active service, and responded nobly; but that partial test proves only the willingness of the individual, and not the resources which would be required to be drawn upon, were a protracted service rendered necessary, and for the efficiency of the supplies which were rendered during the three days service before Ridge way, those who were glad to breakfast on a herring and a cracker can testify. There is no reason why the division staffs should not be organized, and a requisite supply of communications is only necessary to call them into existence. Hoping that our next *pax in bella* may see us more thoroughly provided, and asking for forbearance to my long-winded communication, I conclude.

December, 12th, 1871

CENTURION.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

If there be a weak point in our present militia system it may be found in the conduct of our military schools. If the object be simply to educate the youth of cities who have idle time upon their hands, sufficient to obtain the gratuity of fifty dollars, then, the object is fully attained. But I fancy the projection of the scheme of military schools never contemplated this as the acme of the institution. It might not be time ill-spent for the D. A. G.'s to prepare a statement of the number of cadets who have obtained certificates; are residents in cities; and have or have not applied the education received at the expense of the country to its benefit, by becoming volunteers in the army of the Dominion. The men who fight and win battles are not those of sedentary habits, effeminate from the very nature of their employment; but those engaged in the rude work of life, clearing and tilling the soil or buffeting the storms of the ocean.

If this theory be correct, which class under our present system, is enjoying the advantages offered by the training of military schools? Of the number of cadets that I have from time to time observed in attendance, three-fourths, will, I think, be found to have been residents of the city of St. John.

An energy on the part of this large number, prompted by a higher motive than obtaining gratuity would doubtless have prevented so lamentable a failure as that now exhibited in the wreck of the 62nd.

Where the real work of military training should be done is in the country. From the young men, the bone and sinew of the country, must be formed those regiments which endure the hardships and fatigues of a campaign and the shock of battle. Because less migratory in their character, the training too is less expensive, and the motto *pro avibus foveis* to them more than mere sentiment.

With your permission, I will continue this subject in another letter.

X.

We shall be happy to hear from X again on this subject.—ED. VOL. REV.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—I take the liberty of addressing you these few lines, depending on your generosity to have them occupy a small space in your most valuable columns.

There are still, in this place, a few loiterers who were connected with the late Fenian raid: that number includes the celebrated outcast O'Donahue, who is loitering around here apparently penniless, and living on the scanty means of a worthy Roman Catholic Priest in this neighborhood. O'Donahue has the appearance of a disappointed desperado.

Pembina is remarkably quiet, since a company of Canadian Volunteers arrived at the Hudson Bay Company's Fort at north Pembina.

If you are agreeable, dear sir, I will keep you posted with the news of this place.

The mails run very irregular since the snow fell, we have had nothing but storms which prevents travelling greatly.

By inserting this you would greatly oblige  
Yours &c.

CANADIAN.

Pembina, Dakota Territory, Dec. 7th, 1871.

#### FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

The inspection of Colonel Stevenson's Field Artillery took place on Saturday last on the Champ de Mars. The snow was very deep, and as no sleighs have been provided for the battery, it made it pretty severe work on the horses in drawing the heavy cannon. The variety of evolutions performed by the battery showed considerable efficiency. On Colonel Strange's, the inspecting officer, arrival accompanied by Colonel Bacon, acting D. A. G., he was received with a general salute, after which both men, horses and equipment were minutely inspected. At this point His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Alexis arrived accompanied by his suite, with his worship the Mayor and others. The Duke remained some time on the ground, holding conversation with Colonel Strange, with whom in parting he shook hands. The inspection being concluded the men were addressed by the inspecting officer in complimentary terms, after which they moved off to their headquarters and were dismissed.

The papers have contained such minute lengthy particulars of the visit of the Grand Duke to this city that I will not detail any further than to say that he has won golden opinions, for his deportment, conduct and looks.

Captain Chagnon of Mount Royal Rifles has been committed without bail to take his

trial for withholding pay due to his men. There is a screw loose somewhere.

Captain Hyndman's (late paymaster of 5th Military District,) defaulters are not supposed to exceed \$2000, which his securities will have to make good. Several are spoken of as likely to be appointed to the vacancy. It is generally supposed that Major Dowker, M. G. A., will be the man and a better selection could not be made. His long and meritorious services deserve some recognition, and the opinion is that he will be "the right man in the right place." As supply officer at Liprarie Camp he performed his duties in a very satisfactory manner, and had considerable experiences in various capacities.

Major Bailey 1st Battalion G. T. R. Brigade died on the 15th. He had a Military funeral which was largely attended.

B

#### SHIP-CANAL BETWEEN INDIA AND CEYLON.

A discussion at a meeting of the East India Association held at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on Tuesday week, on Sir James Spence's proposal, for cutting a channel for ships between the Madras and Ceylon coasts, exposed the Indian Government and the Admiralty to much blame and animadversion on account of their shortcomings, neglect, and parsimony, in dealing with the long existing want of a channel for ships between India and Ceylon; the Admiralty, also, was convicted, on sufficiently strong evidence, of neglecting the harbourage, and the survey of the dangerous coast in those parts. We proceed to explain on what grounds these charges were made. It appears that for a quarter of a century or more, plans have been devised for improving the navigation of the shoals and dangerous waters between the Ceylon and Madras coasts. In 1832 the Indian Government granted the magnificent sum of £200 for the survey of the Paumotu passage, Ceylon. Previous to that time it had been only very imperfectly surveyed. General Sir Arthur Cotton stated it to be within his own recollection and observation that fifty years ago plans were devised for the improvement of the communication between the two coasts, and that the first survey was entrusted to "a mere boy," who was a Midshipman belonging to the old Indian Navy. The Admiralty survey of 1832 was followed by another a few years afterwards, when the liberal sum of £400 was granted in the expectation of serving Indian shipping, and Indian merchantmen, using the Paumotu passage. After another long rest in Rip Van Winkle fashion, the Admiralty, in 1845, granted £5000 for the purpose of deepening the channel, when a moderately good passage of nine feet draught of water was made for ships of limited tonnage.

The torpedo boats laid down on the German Coasts, have been all taken up, and the regular navigation resumed.

A list of all the villages and hamlets in Prussia, with detailed information respecting their population, industry, and resources, is being prepared.

The English Indian troop ships are to be supplied with extra screw-fans, in case of accident owing to the intricate passage through the Suez Canal.