

action. At 2h. 52m. p.m. having shot away the head of the Java's bowsprit the American frigate wore—owing to the smoke this manoeuvre was not perceived till she was nearly round on the starboard tack—having neither jib nor foretopmast stay sail the Java as the quickest mode hove in stays the ship paying round very slowly. At 2h. 55m. luffing sharp up the Constitution discharged a heavy but ineffectual broadside into the Java's stern at 400 yards, this salute the latter returned with her port guns as she fell off. Immediately on receiving this fire the American frigate wore round on the port tack and was followed by the Java who ranged up alongside to windward not much the worse for 40 minutes close action with an antagonist which ought to have knocked her to pieces in the same time. At 2h. 58m. being again abreast of each other within pistol shot distance the two frigates mutually engaged much to the disadvantage of the Java, who in the course of 10 minutes had her rigging cut to pieces her fore, and mainmast badly wounded, and several of her crew killed and wounded. As the only chance of success left Capt. Lambert determined to board, and with this intention the Java at 3h. 8m. p.m. bore up to lay the Constitution on board at her port main chains, but at that moment the foremast fell driving in the forecastle and crushing the maindeck battery the stump of the bowsprit passing over the Constitution's stern caught in her starboard mizen rigging and brought the ship up in the wind whereby the opportunity to rake as well as board was lost. The Java being partially disabled the Constitution wore across her bow raking her with a heavy fire which at 3h. 15m. p.m. shot away her main topmast the wreck of which with that of the foremast rendered useless the greater part of the starboard broadside. Running past her unmanageable and now nearly defenceless opponent to leeward, the American frigate at 3h. 20m. luffed up and raked her on the starboard quarter then wore round on the larboard tack and resuming her position fired her port broadside with destructive effect. At 3h. 30m. Captain Lambert fell mortally wounded in the left breast by a musket ball, and the command of the Java devolved on Lieutenant H. D. Chads, who, although being painfully wounded at the commencement of the action, had remained on deck. At 3h. 50m. the Java had her gaff and spanker boom shot away, and at 4h. 5m. her mizenmast—all this while the Constitution lay on her starboard quarter pouring in a tremendous fire of round shot, grape and musketry—from the damaged state of her rigging having ranged ahead, and from the fall of her mizenmast the Java having fell off, the two frigates consequently became opposed broadside to broadside—the men on the Java's maindeck renewed the action with great spirit, but every discharge set the ship on fire the wreck being over her ports on the starboard side. At 4h. 25m. the Consti-

tion made sail ahead out of gun shot to repair damages, mistaking the cause the Java's crew cheered and called on the American frigate to return, and immediately busied themselves to clear away the wreck. Their first endeavors was to get the ship before the wind—a sail was set from the stump of the foremast to the bowsprit and as the weather mainyard still remained aloft, the maintack was got forward, a topgallant mast got up and rigged as a jury foremast with a lower studding sail as a jury foresail, but owing to the heavy rolling of the ship the mainmast was obliged to be cut away to prevent its falling in board; this occurred at 4h. 40m. p.m. At 5h. 10m. the Constitution having repaired damages wore and stood for the hulk of the Java, whose crew at once renewed the action with great spirit, but at 5h. 45m. p.m., full three hours and a half from the commencement of the action having lost her masts and bowsprits, all her boats shot to pieces, her hull shattered, several feet of water in her hold, and one pump shot away, six of her quarter deck, four of her forecastle and several of her maindeck guns disabled; the Constitution having taken up a raking position athwart her bows the colors were lowered from the stump of the mainmast, and at 6 p.m. the Java was taken possession of by the Constitution.

The loss of the British frigate in this action (including the mortally wounded) were 24 killed and 100 wounded, out of a crew including supernumeraries of 354 men and 23 boys. The loss of the American frigate was 14 killed and 42 wounded out of a compliment of 477 men and 3 boys. As it was found impossible to keep the Java afloat she was set on fire and destroyed on the 31st December.

The force of the combatants was as follows:—

Java—Broadside guns, . . .	28
Weight of Broadside, 448 lbs.	
Crew, men only,	354
Tonnage,	1073
Constitution—Broadside guns, . . .	28
Weight of Broadside, 768 lbs.	
Crew, men only,	477
Tonnage,	1533

This was the third Frigate action which had ended disastrously for British interests but not for her honor; composed of such inefficient materials the crew of the Java, jail birds and all, shared the pluck and endurance of true British sailors, and if they had not been incumbered with such a quantity of stores there can be little doubt but the contest would have ended differently, it was by far the best fought action of the war, and judging by the damage done the Constitution it is clear if even a few more able seamen had been on board the Java she would have been captured as up to a late period the fighting was decidedly against her.

Such was the gallantry of the crew of the British vessel that the warrant officers would return to their duty with a tourniquet on

their shattered limbs, well might the rear admiral, who presided at the court martial held on Lieut. Chads, the surviving officers and crew of the Java, pay him the merited compliment.—“I have much satisfaction in returning your sword, had you been an officer who had served in comparative obscurity all your life and never before heard of, your conduct on the present occasion has been sufficient to establish your character as a brave, skilful, and attentive officer.”

The British navy may well be proud of this action for the gallantry and professional skill with which it was fought, during the three and a half hours contest it was one splendid series of scientific manoeuvres, nor could the nicest critic discover a false one, no doubt the loss of the opportunity to rake in the first instance was the cause of the loss of the Java, but any one knows that it was impossible from the time the vessel was at sea to train her raw but gallant crew to artillery practice occupied as they were in setting up rigging, stowing cargo and otherwise employed in the manifold duties of a Frigate, the knowledge useful on the battle day could not be attained but their conduct showed that they had confidence in their officers and themselves.

MONTREAL VOLUNTEERS.—We understand that, according to the service rolls of the various volunteer corps of Montreal, that the aggregate number of men of all arms, who re-enrolled previous to the 31st ult., and in accordance with the provisions of the new Militia Act, does not exceed 1,500 of all ranks. This includes about 300 French Chasseurs. Although all arms of the service are represented in the above yet, with the exception of a brigade of Garrison, and a Company of Field Artillery, which have each their complement, no other corps were able, within the specified time, to enroll a sufficient number of volunteers to approximate to the regulation standard of the respective arm of the service to which they belong. Some of the battalions are but indifferently represented; but volunteers generally, admit, that were the Government intentions towards them freely known, and the rolls re-opened, that little difficulty would be experienced in corps getting their full complement of volunteers. What quota Montreal will have to furnish of the 40,000 militia required by the Dominion, is not yet definitely known, but it will no doubt far exceed 1,500. Whether the services of these partially formed battalions will be accepted, and permission granted to complete, is uncertain. This is not likely to be definitely known, until the return of the Minister of Militia, Sir George Cartier, from England. In the meantime, the acceptance or disbandment of enrolled volunteer corps is in abeyance—*Witness.*

RIFLE MATCH.—The Warwick squad that took the first prize at the late tournament at Warwick, met at the range on Saturday last to shoot off for the Colonel's Revolver. The day was beautiful, and the firing as will be seen from the following score was beautiful also:

	200 yds.	400 yds.	Tl.
Sergt. McLeary	43444	34444	38
D. Douglas	43444	24434	37
Sergt. Westley	30443	33444	32
—Sarnia B. Canadian.			