

Biblical Mesha. It is indeed, the palaeographical part of the document which at present seems paramount. Apart from the very primitive character of the whole alphabet as it here occurs, there is one letter (the Kaph) which, to my knowledge, is found on no other Semitic remnant in this peculiar "Moabite" shape. Next to this point ranks always for the present the geographical importance of this record. There start up with absolute clearness such names as Beth-Bamoth, Beth-Bhal-Meon, Horonaim, Dithon, well-known Biblical cities, either situated in Moab ("the names whereof were changed by the Israelites, whence their variations,") or temporarily held by Moab. These places, among others, King Mesha on this stele boasts of having "built." Indeed, the words "I built" occur so frequently that they form welcome landmarks to the decipherer. Besides these places which occur in the Bible, I find "Karkha," which I venture to identify with Kerek, the later name of the whole country, also the name of a hamlet still in existence. But apart from this mention is also made of "Israel," the rival, often hostile power, and "Chemosh," the national God of Moab.

"Let this suffice now. The historical as well as the linguistic purport of this find are both so startlingly obvious that nothing need be added at present. I would only beg to urge on your committee the expediency of leaving no means untried to get possession of as much of this unique Moabite relic as may survive."

WHAT LORD DERBY OWED TO A WOMAN.—

But Lord Derby, like other great men, owed much to womanly love and watchfulness. Everybody knows that one of the spells by which this mighty speaker riveted his audience was his voice. It was the most perfect of organs, sweeping along a vast compass, and expressing every passion and shade of passion; but speaking music all the time, making music even of wrath, and rolling and swelling and varying in the most easy and natural stream of articulate sound which ever went and came on mortal ears. The effect was irresistible, and without the smallest appearance of effort. It was spontaneous as the sounds of the Æolian harp when the wind sweeps over it. But for this he was indebted to his step-grandmother, who devoted all her skill in elocution to develop the powers of the beautiful voice which nature had bestowed on the future statesman. One other thing he owed to womanly care. He grew up in a pure boyhood to stainless manhood, under the guidance of his mother, herself the daughter of a clergyman, and bringing up her children in the love and fear of God. As he grew into manhood he was thrown much into the society of Bishop Jebb, a frequent visitor at his father's house. Under both influences he grew into a deep love and admiration of the Church of England, ever cherished profound convictions of the solemnity of the union between the Church and the State, and never lost his sense of statesman's duty to God, and dependence on Him. All this was wrought into his heart, and became, as time rolled on, exemplified and embodied in his life as a politician.—*Christian Advocate*.

The people of Stanley and adjoining townships are going to petition Parliament for assistance in making a harbor in Bayfield. They are now going round with the petition and getting a great many names to it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY G. W.

ANNUAL DRILL.—In our section of the country (and I presume it to be the case in others also) a strong preference exists for the performance of the annual drill in the month of June. Many Battalions did it in 1868, in July, and it was found to be inconveniently late, as interfering with hay making, which was, however, certainly accelerated that year by the undue and unusual heat. Last year we tried it in September and with scarcely more general satisfaction. It would seem to be peculiarly unfortunate that the close of the financial year at the end of June does not leave this month available, though I should think it would require no very great amount of contrivance to obviate the inconvenience.

MAJOR BOULTON.—Long before this appears in print it will doubtless be known whether there is any truth in the recent reports that this officer had raised a force with which he was marching on Fort Garry. The writer of this paper has had the pleasure of knowing Major Boulton for many years: and, knowing him to be not only a good and clever soldier, but a gentleman of very considerable acquirements, quick intelligence, energy and activity, ventures to predict that if this "on dit" be correct the vagabond Riel will have had to encounter an opponent very far beyond his own calibre. For the sake of the name which, if successful, Major B would make for himself, there are many who would be glad to be assured of the truth of the story. It may be remembered that Major Boulton (who was lately a Captain in the 100th regiment, and derives his present rank from the 46th, (E. Durham) Battalion, raised his regiment to, I believe, the third or fourth place in the line, within the period during which he was Military Instructor.) With him it is believed, is Capt. Adam Webb (professionally a Surveyor) senior captain and one of the very best officers in the 40th Battalion. If so, he could not have a more trustworthy coadjutor and subordinate.

USE OF TITLES OF MILITARY RANK BY MILITIA OFFICERS IN CANADA.—I happened a few days since to be present at a discussion as to whether Volunteer officers were conventionally justified in assuming and using the titles of their military rank (of course of the grade of Captain and above) as their ordinary designation apart from regimental occasions. Custom has long conceded this privilege to the regular army, though there was a time when even general officers were habitually styled "Mr." in society. I fancy that this must have arisen from a sort of "mauvaise honte" on the part of officers which eventually yield to the

more manly assertion of a legitimate dignity.

It was argued, and correctly, that it is not done by English Volunteers, nor always by English regular Militia officers—the arrogation by those who are, to a certain extent, regarded as amateur imitators of a distinction specially characteristic of the regular force, being looked upon in good society as a species of snobbery.

On the other hand, it is done without any imputation of snobbishness by many officers of regular militia. If I remember rightly the late Colonel Sibthorpe, for many years a prominent member of Parliament and always publicly known by that designation, had no other title to it than his militia commission.

We are also prone to be moved to contemptuous mirth at the profuseness of military appellations in the States.

But the Volunteer (or, as it ought to be called the Militia) Force of Canada stands on a totally different footing. Both in England and the States there exists standing armies. In Canada—practically an anachronism—the proportion of Royal troops is always small; and what remain are to be totally withdrawn. In the presence in the country (socially) of their officers, a not unnatural hesitation still operates to deter Volunteers from arrogating to themselves as a social right distinctions which the imperious custom of a state of society more aristocratic, more subservient to the exclusive dictates of the aristocratic element, and more superciliously prejudiced on small points of etiquette than our own, has at home ascribed almost exclusively to the army.

There is, I should imagine, little probability of the establishment of a Canadian standing army. Indeed for many reasons we may hope that no attempt will be made in that direction at present. The finances of the Dominion could ill afford it, for the expense of a couple of regiments would be more than the cost of maintaining a very large body of militia in comparative efficiency. In Canada, if in any country in the world, exist the conditions most favorable to the working out of the problem "armed nation" versus "standing army." The recent American war has brought prominently before the intelligent enquirer the very open question whether, with all the extravagance evoked in the process, the rapid organization and as rapid disbandment of a force which, if permanent, would be far in excess of the requirements of the hour, be not in the end a less serious drain on the public energies than the maintenance of a standing force. Every modification of drill, every suggestion which emanates from able military men, and (all too slowly) filters into practice through the dense resisting medium of the Horse Guards, brings the soldier of a month's training nearer to equality with him of a year's. This is par-