

OUR ENGLISH LETTER.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

BLAYDON-ON-TYNE, July 12, 1871.

The champion crew leave here in a few days for St. John. Renforth is in the enjoyment of good health, and speaks very confidently of success. His comrades are Henry Kelly, Robert Chambers and James Percy, with John Bright as spare man. I don't consider this crew equal to the last, composed of Renforth, Taylor, Martin, and Winship, and some doubts are expressed as to their triumph over the St. John. Several sporting men from the north of England will follow the crew, and betting may probably turn out very brisk.

We are very much agitated in this country at present about the ballot. The opponents of the measure point out America as an example of the uselessness of it. Yet some M. P.'s who have recently visited that country speak of its efficacy, and even lecture the English public about the *morality and sobriety* of the American people as an example worthy of following. I rather imagine those M. P.'s visit that country with eyes shut. No one with due observation can really applaud the morality and sobriety of the American people. Some attention is, however, being paid to the colonies, and a few M. P.'s are thinking of agitating the country in favour of emigration to Canada. A society for that object would be very beneficial; and as we have thousands of labourers and female servants out of employment, it would be a benefit to those people, and at the same time a strength to Great Britain. I look upon our colonies as the future support and the mainstay for upholding the dignity and prestige of our Crown. Hence the necessity of every true Briton assisting in furthering that object.

Republicanism is spreading very fast in England amongst the working classes, and the strike for the nine hours' movement is assuming a very serious aspect. If it continues until winter life and property will not be altogether safe. Sir W. G. Armstrong & Co.'s extensive works are entirely suspended. Belgian workmen are arriving in the Tyne to supply the small manufacturers, but their lives are in jeopardy and some of them have returned to Belgium again. The authorities are very strict in not allowing batches of men to congregate in the streets.

R. E.

THE WIMBLEDON TEAM.

The honour of furnishing the first Colonial team to compete with the best shots of the Empire at the annual tournament at Wimbledon, belongs to the Rifle Association of the Province of Ontario.

We believe it was originally intended that the team should be chosen from the marksmen of the Dominion, but for some cause this was abandoned, and the parties selected represent Ontario alone. We have to-day much pleasure in presenting to our readers the portraits of the various members of the team, together with that of their captain.

LIEUT.-COL. SKINNER.

When the Association decided that Canada should be represented at this year's Wimbledon meeting, it was felt that upon the proper selection of the captain a great deal of the success of the movement depended, and we think the members exercised a wise discretion in choosing the gentleman they did, as it would be difficult perhaps to find amongst all the volunteer officers of the Dominion one more fitted for the duty. Suave and popular in his manners, personally respected in no ordinary degree for his sterling integrity, a great enthusiast in everything pertaining to rifle-shooting and our volunteer soldiery—in a word, a gentleman and a soldier every inch of him, it is universally felt in Ontario that he is the right man in the right place. He is besides fortunate in having at his disposal both the time and the means necessary for the task, and this also is no light matter, when it is considered that the duties of the position—the collecting of the funds and the choosing of the men—has occupied him almost incessantly since October last.

Lieut.-Col. Skinner is a native of the north of Scotland, and when quite a young man he came to Canada to fill a position in the large mercantile house of Kennedy, Parker & Co., of Hamilton, in whose employment he remained for about ten years, when he, along with a younger brother, commenced the wholesale crockeryware business in Hamilton, in which they have been very successful. A few years ago he purchased the beautiful property of Dunelg, in the valley of the Thames, in the neighbourhood of Woodstock, where his family have since continued to reside.

Although his lot has from boyhood been cast in a merchant's office, the subject of this sketch lacks not a few of those qualifications, so characteristic of his countrymen, which tend so much at once to success in, and enjoyment of a mercantile life, and accordingly we find him—as soon as he could prudently do so, retiring from the active management of his business, and devoting his attention mainly to his farm and to his favourite duties as Colonel of the Hamilton active force.

When the volunteer movement was inaugurated in Canada under the auspices of the late Sir A. N. McNab he was one of the first to join the company formed in Hamilton, since which he has never ceased his connection with the volunteer force. In 1860, previous to the visit to Canada of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, he raised the Highland Rifle Company of Hamilton, the members of which he equipped and clothed at his own expense in the garb of their country. From being their captain he has by degrees been raised to his present well-merited rank of colonel. The feeling among the Ontario volunteers towards Col. Skinner may be fittingly expressed by saying that a braver man or better soldier is not to be found within the bounds of our Dominion. This was strikingly evinced during the short campaign with the Fenians in 1866, and is now as much shown in the efficiency of the

battalion which he commands. Equally modest as brave he is a man of few words, with a horror of everything savouring of snam or pretence, his anxiety being to speak by deeds rather than words. In his youth he received a good classical education, and his literary tastes and acquirements are of no mean order. Col. Skinner is still in the prime of life, being now, we believe, in his forty-fifth year, so that we trust he has yet many years of usefulness before him.

Of the various members of the team selected, after several competitive trials of their skill and efficiency, London furnishes one, viz., Captain Wastie; Woodstock one, Captain McLennan, a worthy member of the fourth estate, editor and proprietor of the Woodstock *Times*, and who, we doubt not, will, for the honour of the craft, give a good account of himself; Hamilton furnishes five, viz., Messrs. Murison, Little, Omand, Mason and Sache—the first being an old and esteemed citizen, and an ex-mayor of the "ambitious little city;" Toronto also furnishes five, viz., Captains McMullen and Gibson, Lieut. Birch, and Messrs. McDonald and Jennings—the two latter enthusiastic young Canadians, sons of highly respected gentlemen, the first-named being a son of Judge McDonald of Guelph, and the other a son of the Rev. Dr. Jennings of Toronto; Coburg furnishes one, in the person of one of its most respected townsmen, Mr. McNaughton; Belleville one, Dr. Oronhyatekha, a descendant of one of our old Indian tribes; Kingston one, Mr. Kincaid; Brockville two, Captains Bell and Wilkinson; and Ottawa three, viz., Captain Cotton and Messrs. Harris and Patrick. We believe the latter gentleman, owing to his official duties, had at the last moment to decline going, and time did not admit of his place being filled.

Before the Wimbledon competition took place the "Canadian team" had the pleasure of shooting in a friendly match against a picked team from one of the Liverpool volunteer companies, in which they won by 13 points. In another contest of the same character they were beaten by about an equal number, thus showing that while the new world had not degenerated, it had not gone far ahead of the old, in so far as the two friendly matches could be taken as criteria. At the time of our going to press no details have reached us as to the result of the Wimbledon meeting beyond the bare announcement by cable that the Canadian team had taken several prizes, and that these were distributed by the Princess Louise. The fact of Canadians appearing in the prize roll along with the most distinguished marksmen of the United Kingdom will be sufficient gratification to the public of Ontario for the very small sacrifice made to enable Col. Skinner to carry out his patriotic resolve, and will no doubt give the sturdy volunteers of that noble Province a *prestige* among their brethren in arms "at home" which they never before enjoyed.

Our illustration, from photographs by Inglis, has been grouped to show to the best advantage the likenesses of the several parties. Col. Skinner's keen glance and bushy beard cannot be mistaken, while to his left the well-rounded form of Dr. Oronhyatekha will be readily recognisable by many. On the right of the captain of the team, and the last figure but one on the left side of the picture, stands ex-Mayor Murison cautiously examining the breech of his rifle as if—Scotsman-like—he was determined that all should be in good trim for the coming contest, and that whoever else might fail he at least was determined to preserve his already well-earned laurels.

Since the above was in type we learn that on the first day, the 19th instant, Sergeant Sache, of the 13th Battalion, won one of the Snider Nursery prizes, £2. On the second day Canada was again to the front in the persons of Private Omand, who won a £5 prize, and Dr. Oronhyatekha, who won a £3 prize. On the third day the Prince Imperial of Prussia visited the camp, and, among other incidents, it is recorded that he entered into conversation with one of the Canadian team. There were no competitions concluded on the third day.

CANADA MILITARY ASYLUM.

[The following notice should have appeared in last No., when the illustration of the Asylum was published.]

This excellent institution, as many of our readers are aware, is "for the relief of widows and orphans of soldiers who die while on service in Canada," and is supported by voluntary contributions. It is situated on the St. Lewis road, Quebec, where old and infirm soldiers' widows and orphans are lodged and provided for, but by far the greater portion of the funds of the charity is taken up in affording out-door relief to such widows who, residing in Quebec, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, and other parts of the Province, are trying to earn their own living. The Asylum was founded in 1812, since which time it has been the means of extending its benefits to many a poor soldier's widow and orphan. We find by this year's Report that there are at present sixty-nine recipients of the charity, many of whom are of great age—the husband of one old widow was in the Glengarry Light Infantry, a Canadian regiment of active militia which did good service in the old war, and which was disbanded in 1815.

The husband of another was a trumpeter in Sir Ralph Abercrombie's expedition into Egypt; he afterwards served throughout the Peninsula campaign, and was present at the occupation of Paris, his faithful wife, now in her 92nd year, following him throughout. We might mention others, the lives of whom if written would read like a romance. We are sorry to find that the funds of the Asylum have decreased, owing to a loss in the number of subscribers by the reduction of the military force in Canada, but the poor widows and recipients of the charity remain; and we would therefore press upon all interested in its welfare (both civilian and military) the necessity of working earnestly and cordially in making known the benefits which it confers, and in collecting funds for its efficient maintenance.

Subscriptions are received by Rev. D. Borthwick, Montreal; Rev. A. Williams, Toronto; Rev. Canon Innis, London; or Assistant Commissary J. E. Taylor, Honorary Secretary, Quebec.

THE SEVEN FALLS OF ST. FEREOI.

The Province of Quebec is rich in natural scenery. The Ottawa, the Montmorenci, the St. Maurice, and the Chaudière, not to mention a hundred other streams, have their falls or rapids, while the mountain and lake views are varied in their character, and in number scarcely to be counted. Not the least attractive among the river scenes are the seven falls of St. Fereol, where the water of the river tumbles from ledge to

ledge of the solid rock, presenting a scene which is strangely picturesque. St. Fereol is in the Seigneurie of Beauport, county of Montmorenci, about twenty-five or thirty miles below Quebec, on the North Shore. The parish is comparatively poor, but the village is very beautiful, and contains from one thousand to twelve hundred inhabitants. The falls are quite near the village, and in the summer time are visited by great numbers of tourists.

VIEW ON HALIFAX HARBOUR, N.S.

The view which we give in this number of some of the romantic scenery about Halifax harbour is taken from the Dartmouth side, some eight or ten miles above the entrance. It shows the "Narrows," a little over half a mile in width, navigable by the largest vessels. The Narrows open into Bedford Basin, a lovely sheet of water, which, while completely sheltered from the most violent storms, has sufficient exposure to float all the navies in the world. The soil in the neighbourhood is good, but in many places covered with immense boulders of stone.

The harbour of Halifax must be of great importance to Canada in the future. Halifax is the eastern terminus of our railway system—a system destined to extend over the whole of the vast territory between the two oceans—and with its magnificent harbour open all the year round, free from high tides, and always able to shelter all the ships that seek it as a haven, must become one of the most important places in the Dominion. That its harbour should be of such immense capacity and offer so many facilities for shipping seems a forecast of the future greatness of our country. It helps at least to show what it might be made by industry and patriotism.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, MONTREAL.

In a former number we had occasion to produce a sketch of old St. George's Episcopal Church as it appeared in process of alteration, previous to being converted into a factory. At the same time we referred at some length to the fortunes of the congregation since the opening of the old chapel of ease. In this issue will be found an illustration of the new church built for that congregation at the corner of St. Janvier and St. Francois de Sales streets. The building, which was erected last fall at a cost of over \$50,000, is a handsome specimen of the Gothic style of architecture, and is a new and noble ornament to a city already singularly rich in beautiful ecclesiastical monuments. The services of the church are presided over by the Ven. Dr. Bond, Archbishop of Quebec, who is assisted by the Rev. James Carmichael, a gentleman well known and appreciated in church circles throughout the Dominion.

THE ORLEANS PRINCE.

At the present time, when the chances of the French legitimists appear to be fading away, while the possibility of an Orleanist succession seems likely to develop into a probability, it may be worth while to produce the portraits of two of the most active members of the family, who, though being the third and fourth sons of the late Orleanist King, and therefore not direct heritors of the crown of Louis Philippe, occupy an important position before the world as members of the National Assembly.

Francois-Ferdinand-Philippe-Louis-Marie-d'Orleans, Prince de Joinville, is the third son of the late King Louis-Philippe, and was born at Neuilly on the 14th August, 1818. After having completed his studies at the College Henri IV, he was, at the age of thirteen, sent to sea. From that time until the revolution of 1848 the Prince devoted himself to his profession, and succeeded in doing good service for the navy of his country, no less with his pen than with his sword. In 1836 the Prince took the rank of lieutenant, and during that and the following year served with the Mediterranean squadron. In 1838 he obtained command of the corvette "Creole," and joined the fleet under Admiral Baudin, who was entrusted with the mission of obtaining reparation from Mexico. He was present at the bombardment both of St. Juan d'Ulloa and of Vera Cruz, and at the latter place was the first to enter the gates at the head of the storming party. As a reward for his services on this occasion he received the Cross of the Legion of Honour, and was promoted to the rank of captain. In 1840 the Prince was entrusted with the mission of conveying to France the remains of Napoleon I. The next few years he was employed on cruises in the Mediterranean, to Senegal, and to Brazil, where in 1843 he married Donna Francesca de Braganza, sister of the Emperor Don Pedro II. When war broke out between France and Morocco in 1845, he commanded as rear-admiral a squadron with which he bombarded Tangier and took Mogador, and for these services was appointed vice-admiral. He did not, however, long enjoy this rank, for being in Algiers at the time of the outbreak of the revolution in 1848, he resolved to share the fortunes of his family, and accordingly quitted the service and retired to England, where he remained, with short intervals of absence, until this year. Shortly after the outbreak of the American war in 1861, the Prince, accompanied by his nephews, the Comte de Paris and the Duc de Chartres, proceeded to the United States, where, on the staff of Gen. McClellan, they witnessed the principal actions of the Virginian campaign of 1862. After the repeal of the act of banishment of the Bourbon family in the early part of the present year, the Prince, together with the other members of the family, returned to France, and at the elections of February presented himself as a candidate for a seat in the National Assembly, and was elected both for the Manche and the Haute-Marne. He chose to sit for the latter constituency, of which he is now the duly elected representative in the councils of the country. During the whole of his career the Prince-Admiral took a deep interest in the welfare of the French navy. First, in 1845, he rendered himself extremely useful to the Admiralty by his solution of the question of the adaptation of steam to vessels of war. Even after his retirement from the navy he continued to render good service to the navy of his country by his writings upon naval matters. Already in 1844 he began publishing in the *Revue des Deux Mondes* a series of studies on the French navy, which he continued while in exile. Shortly after his return he published, in 1865, a comparative review of the fleets of the United States and France, which excited much attention at the time. In the same journal he also published a well-written and impartial article on his experiences while on McClellan's staff. By his marriage with the Donna Francesca the Prince has one son, Pierre, Duke of Penthièvre, a lad of seventeen years.