

that as a pedantic superfluity in any case except for funerals, but as it is, it is no business of ours, unless we troop the color—a ceremony of very rare occurrence with us.

With regard to the second, it seems to be somewhat of an inconsistency to have abolished the words "Right Company" and "Left Company" in telling off a Battalion, and to retain the greater part of Sec. 4, Gen. Prin. of Company Drill p. 60. The direction for the deployment of a double column of Companies from a flank also seem unnecessarily to violate the new principle of deployments, inasmuch as the inner ring deploys on its rear company, while if it deployed on its front company it would only be necessary to tell off that wing again as soon as its deployment should be completed, and frequent telling off a battalion seems to me, as far as I have yet thought of it, to be a necessity of a system involving continual changes of order.

Of the third class are, in the opinion of every officer with whom I have conversed, the new "shoulder" from the "slope." Every one feels that smartness and precision are sacrificed in the alteration which forbids the right hand being raised to check the rifle, and it is as unpopular with men as with officers.

Also, in the "slope" from the "order" why destroy sequence and consistency by omitting the upward jerk and seizure below the lower band of the rifle. I cannot but think there should be three motions instead of two.

Lest I should be accused of presumption in pointing out faults in a work of great experience and talent, but, which, like every other human production, is not infallible, I would remind those whose acquaintance with drill is old enough to remember, and inform those whose experience does not extend so far back, that, among others, a similar kind of crochet was introduced into a field exercise published some ten or eleven years since. It directed the left foot to be *advanced*, instead of the right to be *drawn back* in "standing at ease," causing an absurdly causeless exception to the caution which was the main-stay of Instructors in squad drill to keep the left foot both in standing at ease, and in facings. This ridiculous anomaly was however soon perceived and rescinded. Let us hope the same will be the case with the shoulder from the slope."

In the course of writing the above remarks it has occurred to me that a three-deep square from six companies in line might be formed always as simply as the four deep square from eight—thus—form the inner or basis square as before described viz: 3 stand fast—2 and 4 wheel inwards and form the side faces—5 take up the rear face—then the front rank of No. 1 face to its left and form in front—the rear rank face about, wheels to its right, halt in front of the right

face of the square and front—the rear rank of No. 6 move to the rear face, and the front rank to the left face of the square supernumeraries out of the companies in both movements moving in by the rear face which would be longest open. The movement of the rear rank of No. 6 in this case would be much facilitated if the formation of fours were by "sections," instead of as now. In fact the perfect flexibility of "sections" of "fours" independent of pivots, impresses itself upon me the more I think of it. But I have already, I fear, occupied too much space. Let me then, in conclusion, revert to my text and remark that, if Sir Walter Scott in 1820, felt justified, as doubtless he was, in saying that much had been done to abate the pedantry of war, we of the present day have seen enough of the advance of a bold simplicity to augur that there are heights of it yet unattained, but perfectly attainable. It is probable that many of the thoughts thus hastily thrown together may be crude and ill-considered. Private circumstances have prevented my sifting and weighing them as I would have wished to do; but if they provoke discussion my aim will have been answered.

(To be Continued.)

#### BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE.

##### FROM QUEBEC.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Provisional Brigade of Volunteer Garrison Artillery under command of Lieut. Col. Bowen, have been under canvas for eight days on the Island of Orleans, for heavy gun and shell practice, and have had a very pleasant time of it. The firing has been exceedingly good, better it is said than that of the Regulars who occupied the camp before them, and the targets bear unmistakable evidence that some hits were made. The Brigade mustered exceedingly well, considering the press of business at this season, the four companies showing a total of 180 of all ranks, and have been very much improved both in drill and appearance by their short campaign.

A very unfortunate affair occurred on the second morning of the encampment which cast a gloom on the whole proceedings, a gunner of one of the batteries who was subject to fits, which were followed by temporary insanity, rushed from his tent and threw himself over a cliff some 140 feet high, escaping, strange to say, uninjured, he ran out into the river close by, followed by the men of the guard and almost the whole camp, who had been alarmed, and although the water was not very deep, and every effort was made to save him, he was drowned.

It is rumored that the 9th Battalion Rifles under command of Lieut. Col. Panet will go into camp on the Island for ten days though I believe it is not yet certain.

The first match of the Stadacona Rifle As-

sociation commenced at the Island of Orleans Range yesterday the 18th, and will continue for two or three days. A considerable number of Volunteers from Montreal and the Eastern Townships were present yesterday, and a good many more are expected to-morrow, when the battalion match which is expected to be the most interesting, comes off, it is likely to be very closely contested, opinion being very equally divided between the 8th Battalion, 60th Rifles, and Montreal Royals. The prize list is a very good one, over \$800 being offered in prizes and money.

The French steam frigate "Destres," commander DeVarennes, arrived in Port on Sunday afternoon and anchored near H. M. S. Constance. She is a very neat looking steamer mounting 6 guns.

X. Y. Z.

##### FROM TORONTO.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

While wandering over the Garrison Common range I noticed eight new targets which have been secured by our zealous Brigade Major. The board fence immediately in rear of the Butts has been pretty well riddled by practice with the 12 pr. Armstrong field pieces; some of the holes are as clean and round as if made by a carpenter. The range is in constant requisition for company matches and private practice. Private A. Bell of the Queen's Own holds the cross muskets this year as the shot of the regiment. Some excellent practice was made with the Snider at 800 yards by some of the Rifle Club, averaging over centres; but 900 seems beyond the powers of that weapon.

The Ontario Provincial Association, the 10th Royals, and the Rifle Club have each sent down the affiliation fee of \$40 to the Dominion Association.

The *Rescue* has for the last few days taken the place of the *Heron*, which has just gone East on a cruise.

Alexander Evans, a private in the Queen's Own, shot his wife with a Snider rifle, in a drunken brawl. The ball after passing through the woman's breast, passed through the wall of the house wherein the shot was fired, across an alley, through the wall of a neighbor's house and finally lodged in a bedside, so much out of shape as to be scarcely recognizable. The Enfield is rather a dangerous weapon to trifle with and if it cannot be shot round a corner, can penetrate two walls and still have sufficient force to cause a fatal wound. The man obtained his rifle and 20 rounds ball cartridge by forging an order from his captain on the caretaker of the drillshed. He states it was to practice for a company match soon to come off. The woman has since died and as the shot might have been accidental a verdict of "manslaughter" was rendered.

Several of the leading military officers who were absent on leave have been suddenly