

FROM BELLEVILLE.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The 15th Battalion Volunteer Militia Infantry, under command of Lieut. Col. Campbell, assembled on Monday last, the 7th inst., for the purpose of putting in their annual drill for the year 1868-69. The hours selected for drill was as follows: 8 till 11 in the morning, and 3 to 6 in the afternoon. The weather was exceedingly favorable, all the drills taking place in the open air.

In accordance with Regimental Orders the Battalion was inspected on Saturday last, the 12th inst., by Lt. Col. Jarvis, Assistant Adjutant General. The parade was formed at the Armory at 3 o'clock, 282 of all ranks being present, and headed by their band, proceeded by way of Front and Hotel streets to the race course. The inspecting officer was received in line with the general salute, and after a close inspection, the companies formed open column right in front, and marched past in quick time. The marching of some of the companies was excellent. The column then closed to the front, and again marched past, after which they opened to wheeling distance from No. 1, and after marching round the parade ground wheeled into line, and advanced towards the Inspecting officer. The marching was steady, and would not disgrace a regiment of regulars. The line then retired by fours from the right of companies, and after turning to the front, formed line to the reverse flank, although this is rather a difficult movement, we could not discern the slightest defect. Lt. Col. Sutherland, Senior Major, then put the regiment through the manual and platoon, and although this is the first time the whole battalion has ever gone through the new drill, they acquitted themselves admirably. After standing easy a short time, they were brought to attention, and moved in column of companies from the right along the rear, after changing flanks the column was again wheeled into line and halted. The command was then given to advance in direct echelon of companies from the right, echelon halt, form company squares, and reform companies. The echelon was again moved off and directed to form line to the left. The line then formed quarter distance in rear of No. 1, and closed to the front. The column then deployed outwards, two companies to the right, and formed quarter column right in front on No. 3, and closed to the rear, and again opened to wheeling distance. After which the battalion was directed to skirmish, two companies extending, two in supports. After advancing and retiring, the bugle sounded the commence firing, and after taking ground to the right the bugle sounded cease firing, and finally the assemble, upon which the whole formed on the reserve. The battalion then formed square two deep and facing inwards, was addressed

by the Inspecting Officer, who said: Colonel Campbell and 15th, I hardly know how to express to you the great satisfaction and pride which I feel. I had no idea that I had such a battalion in my district; this arose from my ignorance in never having seen them, nor did I believe that Belleville could produce a battalion like you. I can only express what I think. You are as nearly perfect as a battalion can be. I don't see fault or any mistake, or any absence of knowledge in any one particular. Your appearance is remarkably soldierlike, clean and good. With one exception in my district you are the most soldierlike I have seen. That is the one I have made especial mention of. I think they drill equally if not better than you did; that was extraordinary, because they were a country Battalion and scattered about. The gallant Colonel went on to tell the 15th that they were a city regiment, as it were, and had all their Companies together; besides that they had been on service. He had never seen any volunteer regiment do better than them. His report to the Adjutant General would be very gratifying to all, and particularly to the Adjutant General, as it was to himself. There was one thing in particular he was pleased with,—the 15th was the only Battalion in his district where all the officers were properly uniformed. The whole turn-out was most creditable. Before saying goodbye, he must say that he would much rather have seen Companies equalized. The best of drill would not make them look to the same advantage with irregular Companies as if they were equalized. He knew the objection amongst officers who had raised Companies to part with their strength, but when a Battalion was drilling nobody knew one Company from the other. It was no detriment or discredit to any Company to help to make all equal, and the advantage would be very great. He was exceedingly proud to have inspected them, and exceedingly sorry that he had never had the opportunity of seeing them before.

FROM MONTREAL.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Harassed as I am with the cares and troubles of business, and the usual activity of trade incidental to the fall season of the year, my sensitive ear assailed every now and again with a heavy "thud" on the desk beside me, and "what is my account sir?" with the usual quibbles and discussions as to the rate of discount to be charged for this "silver god"; the solid and close fist business man of the country persistently arguing that because he had to take it at par, every one should take it from him at the same rate;—well, after this important point has been settled, the merchant, surrendering with the air of a martyr, forthwith proceeds with a cool and slow deliberation that is painful to behold, to count and re-

count his money, for fear of overpaying me, and then insist that I should open the rolls, and satisfy myself that they are veritable 10s. or 20s., no doubt in the vague hope that he who put them up might have been a fool, and put in a quarter over and above. Well, this careful individual satisfied and gone, I dip the pen to do duty to you as correspondent, but scarce do I collect my thoughts, when—"thud" and lo! another stalwart country merchant of miscellaneous goods and wares and his "siller." With such interruptions as these to my train of thought do I attempt to fulfil my intention of giving you a letter this week, and if I err in calligraphy or style I trust you will make due allowance for the same. In spite of my business demands I took a few hours on Tuesday for a short visit to the camp at Laprairie, in order by personal view and inspection the more faithfully to describe it for the benefit of your readers. In doing so I will not go into minute local details, my aim being not to bore but to enlighten.

The meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association opened at Laprairie under very favourable auspices. The day was bright and clear; the wind however was pretty strong and grew worse towards the close of the day, and such as to greatly interfere with the shooting. The camp is situated about three quarters of a mile from the village of Laprairie on a wide common, a very suitable place; and the camp is divided into divisions or rows of tents, each province or battalion having its own line of tents, the name of each one being marked on them. Inside the camp are the brigade office, orderly room, quarter master's stores, and other various offices necessary for a regiment. The barracks have been appropriated by the officers for their quarters. The disposition of the camp is as follows:—

The Service Battalion consists of a detachment of Victoria Rifles and of the Grand Trunk Railway Brigade, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Skinner, 13th Battalion, Hamilton; Lieutenant Allan, Victoria Rifles, adjutant. The Victoria Rifles are commanded by Captain Davidson, and the Grand Trunk Brigade by Captain Atkinson.

There are in the camp a post office, mails passing between Laprairie and Montreal, and *vice versa*, three times daily; two restaurants, where the men are provided with meals; news office, with its noisy and "unargumentative" newsboys; and even "Black yer boots, sur!" can be heard from several ambitious "stars" in the spit and polishing line. Mr. Langford has charge of the news office, which is no sinecure. I overheard several ask whether the last number of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW could be got at any price, and they seemed much chagrined at the absence of such a useful adjunct to a Volunteer camp; however several of your subscribers had theirs, and your correspondent parted with his own of last week for the consideration of a drink, thereby making