

It may appear presumptuous in an officer of a Colonial corps to advance an opinion, but it has been our impression for years that if the present organization of the Royal Regiment of Artillery is to be altered at all, it should be re-arranged in four divisions; the Horse, or Light Artillery, to act with Cavalry; the Field Batteries; Garrison Artillery; and a Laboratory Corps. As at present constituted, the soldier in the Royal Artillery is a Dragoon, and learns the use of Sword and Carbine; a Foot soldier, and learns the use of a Rifled Carbine; a Gunner, and is taught to handle every description of ordnance used in the service, light and heavy; guns, mortars, cannon, rockets; he is also expected to be an artificer; to know how to make the various articles prepared in the Laboratory; he must be a groom, and understand well the care of a horse; there is no end to his duties. In fact, to be a gunner and driver, in the English Artillery service, is to be a very accomplished person indeed, if a man knows all that he is expected to know.

Why not take the youngest and most active men and use them for that part of the service, where youth and activity is required, that is, in the Horse Artillery, and Field Batteries, and then transfer them to that part of it, destined for garrison service?

It strikes us that in the organization of the Volunteer Force, our authorities have acted wisely in separating the functions of the corps. We have our field batteries, and our foot companies. Their duties are different on service, and it was a prudent step to separate them in peace. There is the greater chance that each corps will better learn its own peculiar duty.

THE RIFLED CANNON.

Mr. G. W. ARMSTRONG, a gentleman well known in England as the best hydraulic mechanic of the day, has invented a rifled cannon, with which a series of experiments have been lately made on Whitley sands. Two targets, nine feet square, and a solid block of elm timber, three feet thick, were fired at, from distances of 1,500 and 2000 yards, and the result showed the great power and accuracy of the gun.

The range having been tested by a few trial shots, the timber block, only five feet in breadth, was struck at every succeeding discharge. The gun is a five pounder only, and every shell either passed through the block, or lodged in it, within a few inches of the opposite side. Shells were fired horizontally, from the same gun, at 1,500 yards, at the nine-foot square targets; the shells had no fuses, but exploded by contact, that is percussion; only one shell failed to take effect.

It is perfectly clear that, as we stated in our last number, if the artillery cannot be improved so as to be a match for the Enfield Rifle it cannot be taken into the field at all. The gun of Mr. Armstrong would seem to be a move in the right direction.

WELLINGTON SAVING NAPOLEON'S LIFE.

The following passage from the memoirs of the late General V. Muffling, written by himself, under the title of "Aus meinem Leben," will perhaps at this moment be read with some interest. Muffling was the agent of all the communication between the head quarters of Blücher and the Duke of Wellington during the

march of the allies on Paris, after the return of Napoleon from Elba. "During the march (after the battle of Waterloo) Blücher had once a chance of taking Napoleon prisoner, which he was very anxious to do; from the French commissioners who were sent to him to propose an armistice, he demanded the delivery of Napoleon to him as the first condition of the negotiations. I was charged by Marshall Blücher to represent to the Duke of Wellington that the Congress of Vienna had declared Napoleon outlawed, and that he was determined to have him shot the moment he fell into his hands. Yet he wished to know from the Duke what he thought of the matter; for if he (the Duke) had the same intentions, the Marshal was willing to act with him in carrying them into effect. The Duke looked at me rather astonished, and began to dispute the correctness of the Marshal's interpretation of the proclamation of Vienna, which was not at all intended to authorize or incite to the murder of Napoleon; he believed, therefore that no right to shoot him in case he should be made prisoner of war could be found in this document, and he thought the position both of himself and the Marshal towards Napoleon, since the victory had been won, was too high to permit such an act to be committed. I had felt all the force of the Duke's arguments before I delivered the message I had very unwillingly undertaken, and was therefore not inclined to oppose them. 'I, therefore,' continued the Duke, with my friend and colleague to see the matter in the light I do; such an act would give our names to history stained by a crime, and posterity would say of us, they were not worthy to be his conquerors; the more so as such a deed is useless and can have no object, of these expressions, I only used enough to dissuade Blücher from his intention."

There are three despatches given by Muffling in the appendix to his memoirs, in which the execution of Napoleon is urged on the Duke of Wellington by Blücher, they are signed by Gneisenau, and leave no doubt of the determination to revenge the bloodshed of the war on the cause of it, had he fallen into the hands of the Prussian commander. Blücher's fixed idea was that the Emperor should be executed on the very spot where the Duc d'Enghien was put to death. The last despatch yields an unwilling assent to the Duke of Wellington's remonstrances, and calls his interference "dramatic magnanimity," which the Prussian headquarters did not at all comprehend. Probably but few Frenchmen are aware of the existence of this correspondence, or that it is an historical fact that Napoleon's life was saved by his rival, when it cost no small exertion to save it.

HEAD QUARTERS.

Toronto, 15th January, 1857.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS,

ACTIVE FORCE.

No. 1.—The formation of the following Corps is hereby authorized, viz:

CLASS B.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER THREE, LOWER CANADA.

One Volunteer Rifle Company in the County of Megantic, to be styled The First Volunteer Militia Rifle Company of Megantic.

The number of Privates to be sixty-three.

To be Captain: Thomas Barwis, Esquire.

To be Lieutenant: Lieutenant Ira M. Hall, 1st Battalion Megantic.

To be Ensign: James Burns, Gentlemen.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN, UPPER CANADA.

One Troop of Cavalry, in Dundas, County of Wentworth, to be styled The 2nd Volunteer Militia Troop of Cavalry of the County of Wentworth.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant Thomas Robertson, 4th Battalion Wentworth.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, &c.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER NINE, LOWER CANADA.

First Troop Volunteer Militia Cavalry of Montreal.

To be Lieutenant:

A. W. Ogilvie, Gentleman, vice Morin, who is transferred at his own request to the Sedentary Cavalry of Montreal with the rank of Captain.

Cornet Loranger, of this Troop, is transferred at his own request, to the Sedentary Cavalry of Montreal, with the rank of Lieutenant.

Montreal Artillery.

To be Lieutenant-Colonel:

Major John Boston, vice Maitland, placed on the Unattached List.

To be Major:

First Captain Robert Smith Tylee, vice Boston.

Montreal Light Infantry.

To be second Lieutenant, retaining the office of Quarter-Master:

Quarter-Master William Lane Doughty, taking rank and precedence from 30th October, 1856.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER ONE, UPPER CANADA.

Second Volunteer Militia Rifle Company of Ottawa.

The number of Privates in this Company is increased to seventy-five.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER THREE, UPPER CANADA.

Kingston Highland Volunteer Rifle Company.

To be Surgeon:

Fife Fowler, Esquire, M. D.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER FIVE, UPPER CANADA.

First Troop Volunteer Militia Cavalry of the County of York.

To be Lieutenant; and to command the Troop until further orders:

Lieutenant George T. Denison from the Second Troop.

Second Troop of Volunteer Militia Cavalry of the County of York.

To be Lieutenant:

Cornet Edward Charles Colley Foster, vice Denison.

To be Cornet:

Sergeant William Trudgeon, vice Foster.

SEDENTARY FORCE.

No. 2.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER ONE, UPPER CANADA.

First Battalion, Renfrew.

To be Majors:

Captain William Morris, Henry Aikin.

To be Captains:

Captain Archibald Patterson, from 2d Renfrew, taking rank and precedence in the Battalion from the 16th July last, Thomas Patrick French, Esquire.

To be Lieutenant,

Thomas Brady, Gentleman.

To be Ensigns:

Matthew Jamieson, Gentleman, George Brown, senior.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER TWO, UPPER CANADA.

Fourth Battalion, Dundas.

To be Captains:

Lieutenant and Adjutant Solomon Dunn, retaining the Adjutancy, Lieutenant Charles Fox, vice G. Leung, permitted to retire retaining his rank.