

THE CATS OF KILKENNY.

(From the Athenæum.)

An amusing story assigns the memorable fight of the Kilkenny cats to the time of William the Third, when the soldiers stationed at Kilkenny are said to have found their most favourite diversion in witnessing cat fights. It was their custom to bring the belligerent cats into action on the tight-rope, to which the animals were securely tied by the tails. Thus placed on the strained cable, face to face, the infuriated creatures used to spring upon each other, and fight with indescribable ferocity. When the weaker cat slipped from the embrace of his adversary he hung by his tail, screeching and writhing in rage and agony, until he managed to recover an insecure footing on the rope, when the contest was renewed, to the delight of its critical and human spectators. After this elevating pastime had in vogue for a considerable time, it was prohibited by a military order, issued at the request of the principal inhabitants of Kilkenny, where, in the dearth of cats occasioned by a sport so largely destructive of feline life, the mice were verifying with unpleasant force the truth of a familiar adage. But when the order for the discontinuance of the cat-fights had been promulgated, the authorities found much difficulty in enforcing obedience to it. Cats still continued to disappear from Kilkenny town, and it was well known that they were smuggled into the garrison to afford the soldiers brutalising diversion. Such was the state of the case when information reached the commanding officer that a cat fight was going on in an out of the way room of the barracks, and an officer was forthwith despatched to put an end to the fight and arrest the soldiers thus guilty of insubordination. But before the officer and men sent on this duty could break into the room, the spectators of the fight had received warning of their danger. The tramp of the intruding party was audible on the staircase to the men within the chamber, when one of the latter, with admirable promptitude, threw up the window of the room, and liberated the cats from the tight-rope by cutting off their tails. In a trice the animals had fallen to the floor, and disappeared through the window. The next moment the invading party burst into the room, when they saw no evidence of the breach of discipline except the strained rope and the two pendant tails of the vanished cats. "Begorra!" exclaimed one of the newly arrived lads in scarlet, "how the devils must have faught! They have just eaten each other wholly, and left naught but the tails behind them!"

WAR OFFICE PALM-MALL, JAN. 7.

Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve the following promotions in the army:—

Gen. Sir Alexander Woodford, G. C. B., G. C. M. G., Gen. Sir William Maynard Gomm, G. C. B., Gen. Sir Hew Dalrymple Ross, G. C. B., and Gen. Sir John Fox Burgoyne, G. C. B., to be Field Marshals,

16th foot.—Gentleman Cadet Harry Molyneux Carter, from the Royal Military College to be Ensign without purchase, vice Bond, transferred to the 83rd Foot; Gentleman Cadet Henry Herman Napier Martin, from the Royal Military College, to be En-

sign without purchase, vice Cameron promoted; Lieut. John Edward Orange to be Instructor of Musketry, vice Lieut. Pinson, returned to regimental duty.

25th Foot.—Gentleman Cadet Edgar William Wallace Dering, from the Royal Military College, to be Ensign, without purchase, vice Banbury, transferred to the 63rd Foot.

60th Foot.—Ensign Charels Radly Brittain Thorne, from the 15th Foot, to be Ensign, vice Skinner, transferred to the 45th Foot.

78th Foot.—Ensign Allen William Cameron, from the 64th Foot, to be Ensign, vice L. G. Mundy, transferred to the 11th Hussars.

C A N A D A .



MILITIA GENERAL ORDERS.

HEAD QUARTERS,

Ottawa, 31st January, 1868.

GENERAL ORDERS.

VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

No. 1.

All Officers in employment on the Staff of the Militia Department are hereby notified, that no expenditure for any service whatever will be sanctioned unless authority for the same has been previously obtained.

No. 2.

Northumberland and Durham Squadron of Cavalry.

1st. Troop, Cobourg.

The name of the Lieutenant whose resignation was accepted in the General Order No. 1, of the 24th instant, should have been "Pringle" and not "Regan" as was therein stated.

4th Battalion 'Chasseurs Canadiens' Montreal.

To be Captain to date from the 4th instant: Lieutenant Oscar Prevost, vice d'Orsonnens, appointed Brigade Major.

The resignation of Ensign d'Eschambault, is hereby accepted.

9th Battalion "Voltigiers de Quebec."

To be Major:

Captain Leon P. Vohl, vice Pelletier, resigned.

No. 2 Company.

To be Lieutenant (temporary):

Ensign Eugene Gingras, M. S., vice Page, resigned.

No. 4 Company.

To be Lieutenant, (temporary):

Ensign George Lavignour, M. S., vice Totu, left the limits.

No. 5 Company.

To be Lieut (temporary):

Ensign Ed. J. Duchesnay, M. S.

13th Battalion of Infantry, Hamilton.

To be Ensigns, acting till further orders:

Allan Napier McNab Stuart, Gentleman, No. 5 Company, vice Hebden, promoted.

Charles D. Corey, Gentleman, No. 3 Company, vice Moore promoted.

George Hope, Gentleman, No. 4 Company, vice Young, promoted.

John Little, Gentleman, No. 6 Company, vice Roy, promoted.

The resignation of Ensign H. C. Barwick is hereby accepted.

19th "Lincoln" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 2 Company, St. Catharines.

To be Captain:

Lieutenant Theodore Thompson, vice Macdonald, promoted.

To be Lieutenant acting till further orders:

Ensign George Murray, vice Thompson, promoted.

To be Ensign, acting till further orders:

William Thornton, Gentleman, vice Murray, promoted.

40th "Northumberland" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 7 Company, Colborne.

To be Lieutenant, acting till further orders.

Ensign Archibald Campbell, vice J. A. G. Crozier, left the limits.

To be Ensign, temporary:

Thomas Wallace Cumming, gentleman M. S., vice Campbell, promoted.

55th "Megantic" Battalion of Infantry.

No. 4 Company Inverness.

To be Lieutenant (temporary):

Ensign John Wallace, M. S. vice Black, left the limits.

To be Ensign, (temporary):

Color Sergeant S. Hill, M. S., vice Wallace, promoted.

By Command of His Excellency the Right Honorable the Governor General and Commander-in-Chief.

P. L. MacDOUGALL, Colonel,
Adjutant General of Militia,

Canada.