

The Military Gazette.

QUEBEC, AUGUST 7, 1858.

MILITARY OFFICERS.

It is astonishing what an amount of vulgar curiosity there is about the above abundantly criticized class of men, and what an amount of ingenuity and labour is exerted to minister to the predominant passion.

The first appearance of the "Soldier Officer" is in the columns of the War Office Gazette, after which he is looked upon bodily as public property. He is stared at on Parade, unted through every turn of the Gazette, scrutinized at Balls and Soirées, criticized for his conduct in the field, with stint leniency if unsuccessful. His Washerwoman's bill is referred to the Horse Guards, and is probably collected by his Commanding Officer. If he fights a duel he is tried by Court Martial. If he does not fight, he is posted, and then he may be tried by Court Martial for not noticing the affront. His acquirements must be substantiated in a public competition. He dines in public, and if he survives all this publicity long enough to die in the service, his funeral will also be a public one, to be gazed at by thousands who never knew, or never cared for him!

One would think that this ought to be sufficient, even for Newsmonger, but no! The "Military Officer," as these "gents" call him, must be followed into privacy, he must be tracked like a wild beast, to his "den." In vain may he sing jollily in a dreary apartment, furnished by official liberality with 1 shovel, 1 pair of tongs, 1 poker, 1 pair of bellows, 1 fender, 1 iron bedstead and 1 Board of Barrack Regulations, the air of

Room boys—Room— Why should't every man enjoy his own room.

Thoughtless youth, he has forgotten to close his window, under which Sneak of the Van of Freedom is dodging in order to make a "spicy" paragraph for his morning paper. If he goes to a small tea-party, (where fortunately for him Sneak and Backbite have not the right of private entree,) a vigilant police track his steps. They watch till the small hours of the morning and when he emerges flustered with Claret and crinoline, bewildered by glances enough to turn the brain of a policeman, his feelings burst forth in an irrepressible hurroo. That is enough; the vigilant guardians of the night summon all their force to guard the peace from impending danger. And while the Merchants Stores are being broken open, or some lato wayfarer is being murdered, vainly calling on them for help, they chase the offender to his quarters, and send a notice for publication in the evening Somnus.

This is not at all allegorical, it is virtual fact. Some very trivial freaks of some young men of the 39th Regiment having been recently treated after the above fashion. It is hardly credible, and certainly is most unjustifiable thus to intrude on the private actions of men because they happen to wear Red Coats instead of black ones. How would the writers of these small paragraphs like to be treated in a similar fashion?

We cannot believe that the Officers of the 39th Regiment, ordinarily most courteous and quiet in their demeanor, would willingly do anything to annoy or offend any of the inhabitants of Quebec. They cannot help their quarters being in the most public street in the town, and if their neighbours at any time have cause of complaint, a civil remonstrance would make it cease. There is no necessity for a public denunciation like that in one of the local papers of a few days back.

Generally we are proud to think that the conduct of British Officers in garrison will bear contrast with that of any army in the world. He gives himself no airs. He does not arrogate any superiority over his civilian equals. The petty scribes who worry him do so in greater security than they could attempt it in Paris, Berlin or Vienna, and we think they will be compelled to admit that, all things considered, it is lucky they have nothing more serious to complain of.

LEONARD SCOTT & CO'S PUBLICATION.

We have been favored by Mr. Sinclair Bookseller, John Street with our usual number of the Westminster Review and Blackwood for July. Both contain a series of highly interesting Articles. We transcribe in our present number a portion of "the Soldier and the Surgeon," from the latter which our readers will find to be of no ordinary excellence.

(To the Editor of the Quebec Herald.) "He that is merciful unto the bad, is cruel to the just."

Sir,—I have considered it my duty, both as a citizen, and as a person respecting morality, to draw your attention to the ungentlemanly conduct of some officers in her Majesty's 39th Regt. at present stationed here. Unfortunately, some of these gents have left their names upon the Recorder's books, of Montreal, and the same world have been the case here, were is not that some busy-body, whose name I do not know, caused these "bloodes" to be discharged from the "black hold," St. Ursule Street, on last Saturday night week. Such conduct as this, on the part of any citizen, deserved to be censured. If the bye-laws of the Corporation be broken, if the laws of the land be disregarded, it is only right and proper that those persons who violate them,—it matters not whether they wear fine clothes, or rags, should be brought to judgment.

Lately, Sir, it has been the fashion of certain officers, to bring females of bad character, "drabs" and street walkers, into their barracks. Not contented with this, they must sit themselves upon the window sills facing the public street, as early as the hours of seven, eight and nine. p. m., with these wretches, long ago lost to all shame, and modesty, and create such noise in the neighborhood, as to oblige the residents in that locality to send for the police.

Is it not a fact, that last week Dr. Blatherwick, (who, I hope, will pardon me for using his name) had to send for the police to cause the "strumpets" and their fancy jacks, to retreat from the windows in the officers-quarters, Anne Street, and make less noise.

In St. Lewis Street, the same scene occurs—no later than last Friday night some of the officers being rather heated with wine, had one of these unfortunates in their rooms in the second story of the building. The conversation not of the choicest description, was loud enough to have heard some two hundred yards off.

Such scenes as these are almost of nightly occurrence.

Yet, Sir, these are the gents whom the "military hacks," are running after. These are some of the folks to whom papas are so very polite, and whom mammas give evening "parties," and the interesting young ladies choose as lovers.

I say that the time has at length arrived, when the citizens of Quebec should keep the military by themselves. Long ago, scenes were incomplete if no "real sojer" was there, picnic parties were worthless if Captain Embury Joel Percival, Lieutenant Trelawny de Trelawny, or even little Ensign Fitzbubble, litter for the nursery, than the barrack room, were absent. Young ladies and even some old ones could not go to church or to shop, or to walk unless they were escorted by some "fast man," with two or three, or four dogs at their heels playing follow the leader."

Now things are commencing to change. The ladies of Quebec are beginning to have a little more self-respect, beginning to think that they were made for something better than "officers flirts." And, at the present moment the officer's circle of friends is

growing less by degrees. I hope now for the sake of morality, for the honor of the city in which the 39th Regt. is stationed, that Col. Munro will look more closely into the conduct of some of his officers; otherwise, Sir, I am determined that if his folks will not turn a new leaf, that the public will have the names of those who behave neither as officers of Her Majesty nor as gentlemen. Let the gallant Colonel bear in mind that "He that is merciful unto the bad, is cruel to the just."

Adieu, au revoir, A CITIZEN OF QUEBEC. (See Leading Article.)

NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

The following screw line-of-battle ships have been ordered to be built at Chatham dockyard from the designs of Sir Baldwin W. Walker, K.C.B., surveyor of the navy, viz.:-Atlas, 91 Bulwark, 91, each of which will be furnished with machinery of 1,000-horse power. The Undaunted, 50, the Orpheus, 22, and the Reindeer, 16, all screws are to be built as soon as vacancies arise on those slips now occupied.

Admiralty orders have been received at Chatham for the following vessels, now nearly completed, to be launched during the present year:—Hood, 91, Mersey, 40, screws.

The launch of the Windsor Castle, 116, is to take place at Pembroke, on the 26th of next month. When launched she will be placed on the steam reserve.

The Charbidis, 22, of the new class of screw corvettes, designed by Sir Baldwin Walker, Surveyor of the navy, is being completed with all despatch at Chatham dock-yard, and will be launched during the present summer, when a screw line-of-battle ship will be laid down on the same slip.

On Thursday morning Commodore Slepheard, Superintendent of Woolwich Dock yard, received instructions from the Admiralty to hasten the work on board the Archer, 13, and the Racer, 11, screw steam ships, Captain Sanderson, and Commander the Hon. T. A. Pakenham, commissioned two months ago, for service on the West Coast of Africa, to sail positively from Woolwich on the 20th inst.

The Julia and Mistletoe gunboats, having undergone complete repair at Woolwich, have been undocked, and are ordered to be got ready for service.

Her Majesty's brig, Rolla brought to off Bournemouth on Tuesday evening last, at at half-past seven, and sent a boat ashore to communicate with the officers of the Coast Guard Station.

The Comet, steam-vessel, embarked the 2nd Battalion of the 12th Foot on Monday at Cowes, and landed them at Portsmouth, whence they proceeded to Chester.

In consequence of an immediate order from the Admiralty, the Ajax, screw steam-ship, left Kingston harbour on Saturday afternoon, for Belfast Lough, where she is to remain until after the 12th instant. This step has been taken in consequence of accounts from Ulster, showing that the members of Orange lodges are making preparations for a formidable demonstration on the approaching anniversary. The Ajax has a very large body of seamen on board, who would be available to aid the military and police force in case of serious disturbances arising out of Orange processions.

MANNING THE NAVY.—On Saturday last, her Majesty's steam-tender Sprightly, entered our harbour and took up her station alongside the Quay, opposite the Custom House, the object of her visit being to obtain men for the screw steam-ship Casar, Capt. Frederick; now fitting out at Portsmouth. We understand that the Casar had on Saturday last about 340 men on her books, out of complement of 850. The Sprightly was unsuccessful in obtaining men at this port.—Poole Herald.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Cartier announced that a Ministry had been formed, that the different members had assumed various offices and had then resigned them. After which they again assumed office as follows:—

LOWER CANADA.

Attorney General—Cartier. Public Works—Scotte.

Speaker Legislative Council—Belleau. Provincial Secretary—Alley. Inspector General—Galt. Solicitor General—Rose.

UPPER CANADA.

Attorney General—J. A. McDonald. President of Council—John Ross. Post Master General—Sidney Smith. Receiver General—Sherwood. Crown Lands—Vankoughnet.

Mr. Cartier then explained the policy of the Government to be what was enunciated in the speech from the Throne. In addition they would immediately communicate with the House first, and the Lower Provinces, about a Federal Union, watch the working of the Tariff and introduce ad valorem duties as soon as possible, examine and regulate the working of the various departments, and leave the Seat of Government question to the action of Legislature.—Morning Chronicle.

HEAD QUARTERS.

Toronto, 9th 1858.

MILITIA GENERAL ORDER.

ACTIVE FORCE.

PROMOTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, &c.

MILITARY DISTRICT NUMBER SEVEN, LOWER CANADA.

Volunteer Field Battery of Quebec.

To be Captain: Lieutenant and Captain Elzear Lamontagne, vice Gamache, retired.

THE RECAPTURE OF GWALIOR.

The Daily News has received, by way of Madras, some slight details of the recapture of the above place. The intelligence appears in the Madras Athenæum of June 25th, which published the following telegram, dated Calcutta, 29th June, from the President in Council to the Governor of Madras:

"Sir A. Rose has taken Gwalior after a general action which lasted five hours and and-a-half. The enemy has evacuated the fort, and our cavalry and artillery are in pursuit.

The Rane of Jhansi has been killed Sir Sir H. Rose writes this, from the palace of Gwalior on the 19th June yesterday, the Governor General requests the news may be spread through ever part of the Deccan, and of Southern and Pastern India, and that the restoration of our brave and faithful Scindia, through British arms may be loudly proclaimed."

"It seems," says the Madras Athenæum, "that as soon as the rebels got possession of the fort they installed a nephew of the Nena Sakib whose reign was short-lived."

L'IMBROGLIO.

The late Ministerial crisis reminds us very much of the scene in She stoops to conquer,—where Mrs. Hardcastle is driven round her own house, and fancies she is on a long journey.

Mrs. Hardcastle, . . . . . Mr. G. Brown. Pomy Lempkin, . . . . . Mr. J. A. McDonald. The whole affair was just as ridiculous. Not that we believe Sir Edmund Head was privy to the hoax.

M. Brown was to blame in not demanding at first the condition of a dissolution. Sir Edmund Head was not to know but that Mr. Brown (with the very ductile materials at his disposal,) might be able to command a majority.

Sir Edmund Head after twenty four hours of reflection began to suspect that Mr. Brown might not succeed and might not be so sure of his majority. He therefore thought it proper to acquaint Mr. Brown that in any case he could not consent to a dissolution.

Sir Edmund's Stato Papers are remarkable for clearness and sound reasoning, and there is no trace of bad faith; only a little nervousness exhibited lest he should be misunderstood, a very natural feeling in a situation so curious. The difficulties Mr. Brown had to contend with belonged to that situation only; and Sir Edmund Head was in no manner responsible for them; or for the result.