

THE DEATH STRUGGLE.

My back is to the wall,
And my face is to my foes,
That surge and gather round me
Like waves when winter blows.
The ghosts of bygone errors,
The faults of former years,
That sting my veins like arrows
And pierce my heart like spears.

But let them do their utmost,
For these I can endure
And meet and overcome them,
By suffering made pure.
Against all other foemen
I'll fight with fiery breath,
And if, all done, I'm vanquished,
Go gloriously to death.

My back is to the wall,
And my face is to my foes,
I've lived a life of combat,
And know what no one knows,
But in this mortal struggle
I stand—your spear of death,
Defiant—self-reliant,
To die—if die I must!

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY G. W.

CAPT. W. N. KENNEDY.

I notice with pleasure in the *Gazette* of 1st September, the appointment to a rifle company in the town of Winnipeg, Manitoba, of the gentleman above named. I also notice the peculiar style in which it pleases the authorities to gazette an officer of Capt. Kennedy's standing.

Capt. Kennedy has for, I believe, nearly five years, been Adjutant of the 57th (Peterboro') Batt. He was a Lieutenant and for some time acting Adjutant of the 1st, Ontario Rifles, and remained in Manitoba as Lieutenant of the service company of the Ontarios. I understand he resigned on obtaining a registrarship.

Captain Kennedy holds first-class certificates from all the three Schools, Infantry, Gunnery and Cavalry, and ought to have been so gazetted, as well as with the rank he held in two corps. He is also one of those officers who appears in the last Militia List as holding a certificate from one School only.

A better officer and a more true and Christian gentleman could not have been appointed, and I am sure that all his old comrades will be glad to see him at the head of a battalion, as soon as one is formed in Red River.

DR. SCHULTZ.

I should consider the appointment of Dr. John C. Schultz to a similar position, one of a very different character. His prominent position and the political influence which he has secured so entirely for ends of the most utter selfishness, doubtless designate him as a man not to be refused. I only trust that in a military position, he will acquire some slight knowledge of the requirements of military discipline, but I should think but little confidence can be felt in a man who could so far allow his selfish vanity to blind him to his plain public duty, as to prostitute the temporary prosperity he enjoyed to purposes of factious violence, and to do his best to bring disgrace on the military service of his country by tampering and causing his agents to tamper with the sense of mili-

tary discipline of the men of the first Dominion expedition.

Neither the officers nor the best of the men (the great majority), of the Ontario Rifles are likely to forget that they owe it to Dr. John Schultz that there existed even a shadow of coloring for the slanders which obtained publicity about them.

MILITIA IMPROVEMENT.

Most of your readers will agree in your estimate of the value of "Centurion's" letter, which appears in your issue of the 4th September. All the suggestions of that gallant officer have been characterised by sound sense, practicability and the talent of organization, but his last communication is perhaps both more suggestive and more exhaustive than any which have preceded it.

Without discussing other portions of the letter in question, "Centurion's" suggestion of seven days drill at company headquarters preparatory to 14 days in Brigade Camps, goes far to obviate the objection which has been brought against the ballot that it would supply men of 30 days training only. I have long thought that 21 days is just what is wanted, and that it should be apportioned precisely as indicated by "Centurion."

A competent, paid Sergt. Major is also a great desideratum.

It is satisfactory to note a convergence of the ideas of "Centurion" and those of the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* on the subject of the Staff. I think one engineer or surveyor in each Regimental District (nearly identical with counties) should receive a commission in the active force, prepare the local maps, and, as suggested by "Centurion," act under a Deputy-Quartermaster-General for the divisional District, who should be a capable engineer or surveyor.

The writer of these brief notes is particularly interested in the adoption of the plans advocated both by the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW* and "Centurion," as to the preparation of proper maps, not only on account of the vital importance of that service, but that he (the writer) emphatically urged attention to the subject, much in the plan now set forth in a letter to Col. Macdougall as long ago as 1865.

THE BALLOT.

Notwithstanding the disgraceful fact justly insisted on by the *VOLUNTEER REVIEW*, that the meanness and greed of employers of labor constitute one of the heaviest drawbacks to the possible success of the Volunteer principle, does that fact remove the more than equally potent one of inequality of burden? And is it possible to frame a law which will touch that class effectually and yet not unjustly?

It is urged that "the course for the officers of the present force to pursue is to use all diligence to retain as many of their men as possible, &c." May I be permitted to venture a doubt whether this means anything but the old principle of coaxing, so-

subversive of discipline, and so heavy a tax on the Captains of companies?

Is it possible that the Force should be what it ought to be until its ranks are filled by men whose *duty*, not whose *pleasure*, it is to serve.

I would also venture to submit that the practical working out of the just and reasonable theory of the ballot, can scarcely be pronounced to be attended with disastrous results until it has been tried. And I may mention that but little dissatisfaction was apparent at the selection of 1864, badly as it was managed, and unjustly as its burdens fell, though it was difficult to persuade men that they were not to be immediately called upon.

EXPENDITURE FOR MILITIA PURPOSES.

Does it ever occur to the carping politicians who haggle at the cost of our (even now) grand militia system, that while the population, the commerce, and the wealth of Canada are perpetually increasing, the Militia Force (Active), will not increase in proportion and that, therefore, the expenditure which may now appear great, will year by year bear a less proportion to revenue?

OUR MUSSULMAN SUBJECTS.

From the *London Spectator*.

Anybody who thinks it an easy task to govern our Indian Empire, or desire to know how much of vital force yet lives in the Mussulman creed, should see the semi-official pamphlet in which Mr. Hunter has recounted the history of the fifty years' struggle between our Government and the Wahabees of Bengal. Dim rumours of the great contest, incomparably the most dangerous as well as the strangest in which we have ever been engaged, have reached England, in the shape of stories of expeditions, or records of convictions for treason; but here we have for the time its entire history from 1822, when Syud Ahmed founded the colony which has never ceased to ray out missionaries preaching the solemn duty of extirpating Europeans, to the present hour, when in every county of the vast Delta the devotees of Mahomedan Protestantism, Puritan ascetics, zealous as Ultramontanes, faithful as Catholic priests, fearless as Jesuits, are preaching under a hundred disguises the obligation of slaughter, rousing a deadly hate among millions of our Mussulman subjects, and converting, sometimes by thousands a week, the degraded castes of Bengal into Mohammedans so fanatic that they, by birth despised Bengalees, so cowardly and so puny that they are forbidden to enter our armies, set Sepoys at defiance, and have been known to die fighting hand to hand in the open against the Europeans. Very few who read the narrative, close it without a conviction that in these fanatics, these butchers curriers, village-schoolmasters, and low men of every kind, we have the most dangerous foes who ever faced us; that our dominion hangs by a hair; that at any moment a Mussulman Cromwell may take the field, and the Empire be temporarily overwhelmed in massacre. It is proved by evidence that throughout India a vast Mohammedan sect, in which every man is a missionary, is devoting itself to our destruction; making converts in thou-