

MILITARY BALLADS.

Stray Shots.

XI.

THE VOLTIGEURS OF CHATEAUGUAY.

Our country was as a stripling then,
 Young in years but of mettle true ;
 Now, how proudly our bearded men
 Look back and smile at what youth can do.
 Hampton might threaten with odds thrice told,
 The young blood leaped to attack the foe ;
 Winning the field as in days of old,
 With a few stout hearts that braver grow
 If ten to one the invaders be ;
 Like the Voltigeurs of Chateaugay.

The sun rose fair that October morn,
 Kindling the blaze of the autumn hues ;
 Pride in each eye ; every lip breathed scorn ;
 Stay life—come death—not an inch they'll lose—
 Not a square inch of the sacred soil ;
 Hopeful, and firm, and reliant all.
 To souls like these there is no recoil ;
 If spared—they live ; if they fall—they fall
 No braver battled on land or sea
 Than the Voltigeurs of Chateaugay.

No threatening ramparts barred the way,
 No bristling bastion's fiery glare ;
 Yet scarce three hundred scorned the fray,
 Impatient in the abattis there.
 "On !" Hampton cried, "for the day is ours ;"
 Three thousand men at his boastful heels ;
 "On !" as they press through the leaden showers
 Many a scoffer to judgment reels.
 True hearts—true shots, like their ancestry,
 Were the Voltigeurs of Chateaugay !

From bush and swamp sped the rattling hail,
 As the fusilade grew sharp and keen ;
 Tirailleur—Chasseur—loud the wail
 Where their deadly missiles whizzed unseen.
 Here Schiller stands like a wolf at bay ;
 DeSalaberry—Macdonell, there ;
 And where Hampton's masses bar the way,
 Press Duchesnay, Daly, and Bruyere ;
 And their bold commander—who but he
 Led the Voltigeurs of Chateaugay !

"See to the ford I not a man shall pass !"
 Gallantly done ! how the foe disperse !
 Routed and broken like brittle glass,
 Nothing is left them but flight and curse.
 "They're five to one !" baffled Hampton cried ;
 "Better retreat until fairer days,"
 The three thousand fly, humbled in pride,
 And the brave three hundred give God the praise.
 Honour and fame to the hundreds three !
 To the Voltigeurs of Chateaugay !

Yes, God be praised !—we are still the same,
 First to resist, and the last to yield ;
 Ready to pass through the fiery flame,
 When duty calls to the battle-field.
 And if e'er again the foe should set
 A hostile foot on the soil we love,
 Such dauntless souls as of old he met
 His might and valour will amply prove.
 True hearts, true shots, like our ancestry,
 Like the Voltigeurs of Chateaugay.

CHAS. SANGSTER.

In a recent letter to the *Times*, Capt. Noble, of the firm of Messrs. Armstrong, Mitchell & Co., Newcastle-on-Tyne, stated that : "The highest velocity we have up to the present obtained with the 100-calibre gun is, with a shot weighing 100 lbs., 3,231 f.s. This high velocity represents an energy of no less than 7,240 foot-tons. With a 70-lb. shot a velocity of 3,711 f.s. has been obtained, and this velocity, so far as I know, is greatly in excess of any velocity yet obtained, even with rifles or with small calibres, in which the attainment of high velocity is, of course, much easier. I need scarcely point out that the high velocity (3,711 f.s.) just given is not one that would be likely to be used in practice. The true test of efficiency is the energy. The energy obtained by the 100-lb. shot is considerably higher than that with the 70-lb. shot, and there are other reasons which make the use of the heavier projectile preferable. As regards the advantages to be gained by increasing the length of the gun, it would be premature, before our experiments are completed, to attempt to draw exact conclusions."

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Desertions from the American navy recently have again aroused discussion on the subject of the standing of Jack aboard ship and the rigid discipline under which he lives. A bitter complaint is made by a correspondent to the *Boston Herald*. He says :—"In joining the service you do such as a volunteer, believing that you ought to be treated as such, but the very reverse is the case. You are not forty-eight hours on an active ship until you get to be a serf. Here are the principal grievances of blue jackets. Stoppage of money. No liberty. And last and worst, the unbearable contempt which some officers hold to blue jackets."

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The *Army and Navy Journal*, New York, has published a special edition of the new Infantry Drill Regulations for the Army and National Guard, with an appendix giving the interpretations to many questions in the new drill. Price 50 cents. These interpretations were made by Lieut. John T. French, Jr., 4th U. S. Art., Recorder of the Board which prepared the new drill. The addition of these interpretations to the volume of the new Drill Regulations (being bound with it) makes a very handy volume for reference. Officers and men desiring to be fully informed on the new drill should secure a copy.

An United States Army officer speaking of this volume says :

"I find this arrangement a very handy one, and the book is thereby rendered very valuable to me or to any one who must study the Drill Regulations carefully. The *Army and Navy Journal* deserves the thanks of all concerned in its efforts to place the new Drill Regulations and their true meaning before the American soldiery."

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In the Imperial House of Commons, on the 13th March, Mr. Martin asked the Secretary of State for War upon what grounds the allowance of fuel issued to troops quartered in British North America had been considerably diminished ; and whether he had ascertained from the General commanding the troops if such reduced allowance was considered by him to be sufficient ; if not, whether he would at once communicate with him, and inform the House what answer he had received.

Mr. Campbell-Bannerman stated in reply that the regulations as to fuel for home service were recently entirely remodelled, with the effect, after the new rules were understood, of giving great satisfaction to the troops. The regulations for foreign stations have subsequently been altered on similar lines, but until the close of the full year, on September 30, it will not be possible to say whether the issues of fuel in Nova Scotia have been increased or diminished. The general officer commanding has, however, and is aware that he has, full power to make any extra issues which the comfort of the troops may require.