

CORRESPONDENCE.

FOR THE REVIEW.

PASTIMES OF PEACE AN EXERCISE FOR WAR.

Play—honest, physical sport,—in which the man sinks his commercial stiffness and for the nonce becomes the boy, is too much neglected by our adult population, and with the inevitable results. Of late years the business of life has increased immensely while its recreation has been decreasing in an inverse ratio. The mind is taxed in a hundred ways unknown to and unthought of by our sires, and the strain is felt from the highest to the lowest worker in the Dominion. The progress of the age has been everywhere to substitute mechanical for manual labor; and while our numerous systems of locomotion compel us to dispense with pedestrian exercise, the wondrous development of machinery almost as completely supersedes manual exertion. Nor is this all. With—and probably arising from—these great changes, an eager desire for knowledge has arisen, to which all classes yield, and the mind, in addition to the daily growing increase of mental labour for business purposes, is taxed with acquiring that information requisite to keep us to the level of the age,—a tax levied on our already reduced physical recreation. Far be it from us to condemn Mechanics' Institutes, young men's associations, literary clubs, *et hoc genus omne*, yet it must be confessed that they in some measure induce their frequenters to neglect the body's welfare, and so upset the economy of nature, which calls for an alternation of working in its component parts. The lack of physical pastime is just as strongly felt in the country as in the town. Smoking, drinking, gambling, loitering at the corners of the village groceries in awkward contortions of ease, or as our American friends admirably call it "loafing," breathing air morally as well as physically impure, are the usual resorts of many of the rising youth after the labour of the day is done, while those whose nature is not congenial with these pastimes bury themselves in the pages of the latest serial or novel. It may be urged that the labour of the day needs absolute repose of the muscles. But physical labour by no means incapacitates for physical play. From the abstruse study of science the mind finds delight in the beauties of poetry, though the same mental organs are in action; in like manner the hardy son of toil would gain rather than lose freshness and strength by the physical pastime of the evening which would rouse into action qualities of emulation and hardihood seldom required in the daily labour of his life.

We hail with pleasure the accounts our exchanges occasionally bring us of snowshoe, lacrosse, curling, cricket and other clubs, evincing a wholesome revival of manly pastimes; but they are generally confined to certain classes of society. What is essen-

tially needed is something that can be embraced by all classes together, and afford opportunities of intercourse and fellow-labourship from which mutual dependence would arise. The Volunteer movement which has been so successful in England has, to a great extent, accomplished this, and it is to the new organization under the regime of the Dominion that we must in this country look for a pastime, that will be beneficial to the physical welfare of us all. We do not mean our remarks so much to apply to cities as to the country at large; and the first step towards this movement should be to introduce into every school throughout the length and breadth of the Dominion, an absolute concomitant of studies in the shape of a certain portion of time devoted to military exercises as a pastime. King David thought it worth his leisure to instruct the youth of Judah in the use of the bow. In free Greece the olive crown of the poet and the athlete were alike honored. As it was a bad day for Grecian independence when its youth neglected the gymnasia for the barbers' shops, and began to be critical about the cut of their toga, so it was for Saxon England when her sons left their martial sport for revels and excess in the franklin's halls.

Practical hints come awkwardly from an unprofessional pen; but we do think that under the new organization of militia matters, our boys should not be overlooked, and we respectfully urge on the consideration of that Department in conjunction with the Ministers of Public Instruction to give this suggestion a thought, and by introducing as a pastime a spirit of martial enterprise which would soon become most popular, and so form a nursery for an institution, which the long frontiers of our Dominion, with its mighty northwest, demand; a measure more efficacious than the maintenance of numberless troops could ever be along our boundary.

INCOLA.

Buckingham, Jan. 18th, 1868.

VOLUNTEERS' SUPPER.

The fifth annual Supper of No. 2 Company, 13th Battalion, took place last night at the Victoria Hotel, King street. The Chair was filled by Captain Watson, and the Vice Chair by Lieut. Sewell. The supper, which was a very substantial one, was partaken of by about fifty persons, nearly all of whom were members of the Company.

After the usual patriotic toasts and songs (which none can give or appreciate better than our country's defenders), the Chairman said he was about to propose the health of one whom they all knew and respected. Since the volunteer movement had been inaugurated in this city, there were many good men who had become disheartened, and left the force for the quieter walks of life; but the gentleman whom he was about to propose had stuck to them through thick and thin, and has by quiet, strict attention to duty, earned the respect of every man in

the battalion. He knew him, from experience, to be a brave man, and on any future occasion, if his services were required, would not say "go on;" but "come on" would be the order. There had, on a recent occasion, been a little estrangement between the men of the Company and their commander, but he hoped that the lesson given on that occasion would be remembered, and that they would never, on any future occasion, allow their temper to interfere with their better judgment, but in every case obey orders, which was the first duty of a soldier. He now had our warmest wishes, and the heartfelt feelings of respect of the whole company. "Our Commander Colonel Skinner," was then given, and drunk very enthusiastically.

The Colonel, in response, said he could not take the amount of credit which Captain Watson endeavored to bestow upon him. He always liked to feel that he had done his duty. They should never look forward for services rendered their common country, for they would not get it, nor did he think they desired it. He was quite sure he never had any feelings of estrangement towards No. 2. He knew they were all right at the bottom—that it was an error on their part, and that an example had to be made. He always felt a special interest in the Company from the fact that his connection with the Volunteer force began when he joined it as a private in 1855. Since that time it had undergone great changes. It has had no less than six captains, and the number of men on its rolls would alone make a very respectable regiment. No. 2 Company has done good service to the country, for it had been the means of enabling a very large number of men to acquaint themselves with the use of the rifle, and he felt sure if we could trace these men we would find them still animated by the same patriotic spirit that induced them to become Volunteers, and members of the same force in their respective localities. We had evidence of this when we were stationed at Port Colborne, for you recollect with what alacrity many former members of the Battalion came from all parts of the United States and Canada to join us. He could assure them a more pleasing incident had seldom occurred to him than when he was waited upon by an old comrade of his in the ranks of No. 2, who came all the way from Chicago to make offer of his services. He quite agreed with Captain Watson when he said that the country owed much to the Volunteers. Few outside of the force had any idea of the disabilities entailed on the men, and often wondered how they kept together so well, knowing how little encouragement they received at the hands of their employers. From the look of things he thought their services would be required before long, and he hoped if they were called out, they would leave Hamilton without a single drafted man in the ranks. After thanking the Chairman and company for the very flattering manner in which his health had been proposed and drank, the Colonel sat down amidst tremendous cheering.

The balance of the evening was spent in songs and toasts from the Vice Chairman, Sergeants Strickland and Evans, and Corporals McDonald and Elmsley. The night was very pleasantly spent, and went towards making up a nice little episode "in the life of a gay recruit."—*Hamilton Times*.

VOLUNTEER SUPPER.

On Tuesday evening, January 14th, Capt. Hamply and the officers of No. 1 Company, 49th Batt. (formerly the Belleville Rifles), entertained their men and a number of