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### RIFLE MATCH NO. 3 CO., 49TH BATTALION.

To the Editor of the Intelligencer.

Knowing that you take an interest in anything pertaining to our Volunteers, I give you a few outlines of the Target Practice and Oyster Supper of Capt. B. H. Vandervoort's Company No. 3, 49th Battalion.

On the 14th inst., Capt. Vandervoort's Company No. 3, with an invitation to outsiders, met at the Town Hall, Sidney, (their Headquarters) to perform their finishing stroke of Target Practice and compete for some prizes that had been kindly forwarded for the purpose.

The following is a list of the prizes offered for competition:—

- 1st. A splendid Gold Pin, by Major Bowell.
- 2nd. A Valuable Album, by Captain B. F. Vandervoort.
- 3rd. ————Lieut. J. Caverly.
- 4th. A Valuable Book, Sergt. Vandervoort.
- 5th. A Pocket Book and Diary, B. Rose, Reeve of Sidney.
- 6th. A Pocket Book and Diary, smaller, B. Rose, Reeve of Sidney.
- 7th. A large volume on Domestic Animals, A. T. Ketcheson.
- 8th. A splendid volume, S. T. Willmot.
- 9th. A book, London Ancient and Modern, A. T. Ketcheson.
- 10th. Cash Fifty Cents, S. T. Knight.

I can assure you that there was a spirited contest. Although the rain caused the day to be very unfavourable, the shooting was the best I have seen here since the Company has been organized. There were only four or five outsiders. The bulls-eye was well riddled and the contest kept up until darkness, when the competitors and their friends proceeded to the Town Hall Cheese Factory, where a splendid supper of Oysters was served by Mr. John Moon. There was in all about fifty sat down, of whom about thirty were Volunteers, and if the night had proved propitious there would have been many more. The chair was occupied by S. T. Willmot, Esq. After supper the Chairman read a letter of apology with the bestowal of the prize above mentioned, from Major Bowell, M. P., regretting his inability to attend on account of other business; and from Major Cummings, stating that it would have given him pleasure to have met with them, but circumstances prevented it; and from Colonel Wm. Ketcheson, one of the oldest Militia Colonels now living, his age being about 88, a still hale and hearty old man. After supper the following toasts were given:

"The Queen." All responded by singing the National Anthem.

"The Prince of Wales, and Royal Family." Responded to by S. P. Knight, in a very appropriate manner.

"The Governor General." Responded to by A. T. Ketcheson in a style that gave great applause.

"The Army and Navy." Responded to by Sergeant Vandervoort and G. M. Ketcheson, in very enthusiastic speeches, accompanied by the song, "Our Flag has braved a Thousand Years."

"The Canadian Volunteers." Responded to by Captain Vandervoort and Sergeant Graham, in speeches that vividly depicted the life of a Volunteer.

"The Sidney Volunteers." Responded to

by Captain Vandervoort in a worthy manner, stating that enconiums had been given to the 49th when on Battalion drill, and that the Sidney Company deserved the marks of praise, received from the general officers of the day.

A large number of other toasts were given and ably responded to, such as the "Ladies," the "Dominion," the "Land of our Forefathers," the "Land we live in," &c., &c. The last given was our worthy Chairman, which was ably responded to, when the Chairman stated that he had now to name the several successful competitors for the prizes:—

- For prize No. 1—Charles Lawrence.  
 " 2—Sergt A. L. Vandervoort.  
 " 3—Captain Vandervoort.  
 " 4—G. M. Ketcheson.  
 " 5—Charles Lawder,  
 " 6—Sergeant Graham.  
 " 7—William Moon.  
 " 8—Corporal Moon.  
 " 9—John Whitten.  
 " 10—Charles Zwick.

After which thanks were given to Mr. Moon for the able manner in which he had served the dinner. Just as they began to disperse Col. Brown and Capt. Hamby arrived, but too late to join the volunteers and guests. It was raining torrents, and for nine miles these gentlemen of the volunteer force rode through copious streams of cold water to meet their brethren in arms. They were, however, invited by Capt. Vandervoort and a number of others, to Mrs. Bleeker's temperance house, where oysters and other refreshments were obtained, where song and speeches kept them until quite a late hour.

Yours truly,  
TAYLOR.

Sidney, Dec. 18th, 1869.

### HOW THE FENIAN BROTHERHOOD WAS FORMED.

The following particulars of the Fenian Brotherhood are from a work entitled "Fenian Heroes and Martyrs," published in Boston, U. S.:—Smith O'Brien's efforts of July and September, 1848, having proved abortive, a schoolmaster in Skibbereen, named Mortimer Moynahan, James Stephens, and Jeremiah O'Donovan (Rossa), organised a secret society called "The Phoenix," which, in a few weeks after its starting, numbered from 200 to 300 adherents. In a short time the society was pushed in Bantry, Kenmare, Castletown, Killarney, Berehaven, Dunmanway, Clonakilty, and Macroom, by the Skibbereen men; and into "Kinsale and Cork by equally energetic brothers. Moynahan, who was connected with a solicitor, and used to accompany him to the sessions and the assizes, took these occasions for propagating the order, which he did as far as Kinorglin, in Kerry, while O'Donovan worked with great energy about Skibbereen and Roscarbery. They progressed so rapidly in numbers and spirit that an Irish-American was sent to give them military instructions. Meanwhile, a man of Kenmare, who had got possession of the facts relating to the society, conveyed the same to the Government. As a consequence, the Government made a descent on the society, and on the morning of the 8th December, 1858, upwards of thirty arrests were made in the Killarney districts. After being confined for some weeks, the prisoners were discharged; but true bills were found against seven, among whom were Moynahan and O'Donovan. These seven agreed to plead guilty to treason felony and be liberated, the pleading guilty being a condition of their liberation. But

the Phoenix Society was not dead. It had gradually become known as the Fenian Society, and under the leadership of Stephens, and by continual impulses from America, it became a widely spread organisation. O'Donovan Rossa, after being liberated, went to New York in 1862, whither most of his fellow conspirators had gone, but in a few months was recalled to Ireland by the death of his wife. Of course, relations with Stephens, Luby, and the other chief men, were resumed, and on the starting of the *Irish People* he became one of the registered proprietors. He was one of the first captured, and was brought to trial at the Dublin Commission on the 9th December, 1865. He conducted his own defence, bearded the judge, taunted the jury, and, after three days' trial, was sentenced to penal servitude for life.

### CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR:—I have taken great pleasure in reading over, and have derived a great deal of information from the excellent letters of your correspondents "L. C.," "F. O." and "G. W." in regard to the present state of our Volunteer Force and our new Militia Act.

I was particularly struck with a paragraph in "F. O.'s" last letter in which he says that our only chance of a war is with the United States, and which war cannot come upon us in a hurry; this is just my belief, also, and don't you think, in view of this fact, that it would be much better to have no Volunteers at all, but a Militia drafted and called out only when war was imminent.

Call out yearly the officers and non-commissioned officers of the Active Militia and the Reserve also if thought best, and make it compulsory on them to drill say for one month under canvass; pay them according to their rank, and any officer or non-commissioned officer neglecting or refusing to turn out for drill to lose their commission, unless prevented from drilling by sickness; company officers to be furnished with and keep a correct list of the drafted men in their company limits, and furnish a copy of the same to their Lieut.-Colonel. Each company would by this plan have from nine to ten officers and non-commissioned officers well up in their drill, and who, if required, could in a very short time get out their company and have it in much better fighting trim than any of our present Volunteer companies. Our present system is not at all satisfactory either to officers or men, as only the willing ones have to do all the work a draft here would please all parties much better. I have been in command of a company for four years at an annual expense of \$100 to myself which is more than I can afford. The plan I propose would not be any expense to officers and an immense saving to the country in arms, ammunition and clothing. With your permission, Mr. Editor, I will again trouble you with a more detailed sketch of this proposed plan for our Militia force which I know meet the views of a large majority of the Volunteer officers of the Province of Quebec.

Yours truly,  
QUEREC.