

end of the city to the other, or face the muddiest crossing on Sparks Street."—*Ottawa Citizen*.

That the simple and unassuming manners of a high bred English lady should be sufficiently noticeable to afford a text for the rebuke of parvenues! Perhaps there exists in the minds of the good people of Ottawa the sense of a contrast with some bygone evidences. However, it is not every lady of high rank is that free from the follies of affectation and assumption.

It is a pity that the name of the contriver of the Dominion flag is not generally known in order that the genius which could achieve the arrangement of so singular (and miscellaneous) collection of curiosities on one piece of bunting, might be duly honored. Surely such a medley never before astonished the breezes in which flags float! Buffaloes, fish, galleys, *fleur de lis*, thistle, and heaven knows what, jumbled together in an undistinguishable hotch potch. I suppose it never occurred to people whose taste could be satisfied with such a production, that there is a principle in flag making as well as in other combinations of color and design. The leading idea should be conspicuousness, and the employment of emblematic device as simple and distinct as possible; above all, simplicity. Any one who will take the trouble to study the great national flags, will at once perceive this. The White, Blue and Red ensigns, and the Jack of England, the Stars and Stripes of the United States, the Tricolors of France, Belgium, Holland and Italy, the beautiful standard of Portugal, the ensigns of Russia, Sweden and Denmark, are all unconfused by any attempt to crowd in a mass of heraldic blazonry. Any flag in which this is traced will, at any little distance, be a mere muddle. The standard of England, is probably the most elaborate design which would by any possibility look well, but the meteor-like effect of it is, after all, attained by a simple good taste in the arrangement of three striking colors. Now, nothing can exceed the poverty of disposition of the colors on the Dominion Flag, and a wretched hash it looks. All attempts to emblazonize a number of states by heraldic devices in one flag, cannot produce anything but a confusion of mass, unsatisfactory to the eye, and undistinguishable when floating in a breeze at a masthead. It may be relied on that the only way to indicate states or provinces is by stars. A single distinguishing badge, or perhaps two might be allowable; thus, if it were necessary, to retain the Jack, and if, for that purpose, the blue ensign were adopted, the provinces might be indicated by as many red stars on a white shield surmounted by a yellow crown, and if thought desirable surrounded by a maple wreath, all on the blue flag of the ensign. Or, take another simple and conspicuous design, supposing the Jack were drooped, a white flag with

red St. George's cross, on the centre of the cross a blue shield with white stars, surmounted with a crown, and surrounded with a maple wreath. In fact, any one possessed of the slightest taste might sit down with a paint brush and three water colors, blue, red, and yellow, and produce in half an hour, half a dozen designs superior to that of the tasteless piece of patchwork at present inflicted on the unhappy Dominion, tho' I don't at all see what we really want with anything but the English Jack and ensigns, without any addition or alteration whatever.

I am continually questioned by persons here who take an interest in the organization of the militia, not only as to the working of the Act, but as to what is going to be done, as to which latter, I am of course no wiser than any one else. I fancy that the tendency to loose formations, and the reliance which must in future be placed on the intelligence of every man in a corps, are elements which will commend themselves to the self-reliant people of this Province, and I think, if organization is ever set on foot here, lectures by staff officers on military subjects, as a means of explaining the mature growth and capabilities of the Force, and what is especially required of a citizen soldier in these days, would be acceptable to numbers of the inhabitants of British Columbia.

Speaking of loose formations, which led me unawares in my last letter, into a hasty dissertation on impending alterations in drill, reminds me of a change which ought to be made in the "charge." The actual "charge" which ought to be distinguished from the standing "charge bayonets" by having it laid down that, advancing at the trail, the rifle should not be seized with both hands till the actual close with the enemy, if, in these days of breech loaders, enemies ever actually come in contact. The idea was, I think, first propounded in Col. Wolseley's Pocket Book, but, from whomsoever it might have emanated, it is common sense.

Within a year or thereabouts, we have now seen the Flag of England lowered on both sides of the continent. It seems sadly like the drawing in of the Roman Legions, especially in view of the contemptible position she has elected to occupy in Europe. Her deduction in power and influence, brought about by the Manchester men, has been as timely acquiesced in by the nation, that her abdication of the policy of colonial extension, may be considered deliberate. It is doubtful, whether the ridiculous facility of her diplomats has left her anything more to loose on this continent, tho' there is already a rumor, I believe, of an American claim to some island in Luke Superior, and it is edifying to note the tone assumed by even so loyal an officer as Col. Wheaton, the Commandant at Pembina, with regard to the H. B. Fort there, in reference to the doubt as to the true 49th parallel. Had Sir James Douglas had his way and been supported by the British Admiral, the bold, but insolent General Hailey would have been put off San Juan at once.

In notice with satisfaction, the tenor of the charge of Chief Justice Morris of Manitoba. It is devoutly to be hoped that the formation of party and religious discord, and obstructions of national unification will meet their full deserts.

Are we to have a Militia List, or is the Force willing to content itself with embodiment in the English Army List which I see mentioned? I think we ought to have one of our own.

G. W. G.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

16th Dec., 1872.

DEAR SIR,—About a year has elapsed since it was stated in the VOLUNTEER REVIEW, that it was probable gold lace would be substituted for silver by the officers of the permanent staff of our Canadian Army. Will you kindly inform me and other officers interested in this change whether or not such alteration is still in contemplation? so that in the event of investing money in the purchase of uniforms under the existing regulations, we may not be led astray in obtaining outfits.

Yours dear sir, respectfully,

B. S.

ANSWER.—The cavalry, artillery and engineers, to wear gold; the infantry, silver. No change.

ED. VOL. REV.

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—Will you kindly permit me to point out in your columns what I consider a grave error in the present system of cavalry drill in the Dominion, viz.: That of the Government allowing a certain sum, (\$40) annually to captains of troops to drill their own men instead of the old and regular method of providing efficient and responsible drill instructors as is the practice of all Governments who pretend to have a serviceable armed force.

* A Commanding officer may be, and British officers are, as a rule, perfectly au fait in everything pertaining to their profession, for the very reason that they have gone through a thorough training under the tuition of regular instructors; men educated for the purpose and who have been deemed by competent authority, not only possessed of all necessary military knowledge, but also imbued with the peculiar faculty of imparting that knowledge to others.

A regimental officer may be "well-up" in all his duties as a soldier and a good disciplinarian, &c., and yet be wanting in the gift (so to speak) of training; and on the other hand, methinks, the present system has a tendency to bring the captain in such close contact with his men during the period of drill, that any ebullition of temper or view of impatience on his part must necessarily tend to weaken his authority. Officers of all grades should, of course, occasionally drill their men, but they ought not to be the schoolmasters. "He that yields the birch will seldom hold the sceptre with dignity."

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obdt. servant,

LEAH HORSE.

Compton, 18th Dec., 1872.

REMITTANCES Received on Subscription to THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW up to Saturday, the 21st inst.
WEXFORD, Ont.—Lieut.-Col. W. H. Norris, 12th Batt., \$2.00.
HAMILTON, Ont.—Lieut.-Col. Wm. Patton, 33th Batt., \$1.00.
WATERVILLE, Que.—Sergeant W. F. Parker, No. 4 Troop, (per Agent) \$2.00.
MONTREAL—Lieut.-Col. Harwood, D.A.G., \$2.00.
FOREST, Ont.—R. S. T. Conklin, \$1.