

dearly bought. In future I shall be careful to see on my entering into barracks, that I have a long-handled scrubbing brush, &c., and that my four candlesticks are given to me in a cleanly condition.

On Tuesday, the 31st May, Mr. French, R.A., and my command left Fort Lennox, at 4.30 a.m., and arrived at Montreal about 10 o'clock. I reported to Col. Bacon, was inspected by him, and ordered to remain on duty until the next day. On Wednesday, the 1st of June, the several city corps arrived from the front, and were formed up on the Champ-de-Mars. In the words of the *Star* newspaper: "After eleven Col. Bacon rode upon the ground, and was received with a general salute. On the extreme right of the brigade, the squad of Montreal Garrison Artillery, under Lieut. Wicksteed, were drawn up. These are the volunteers who went to Isle-Aux-Noix, and though they arrived yesterday, remained on duty until to-day. Next the Garrison Artillery, stood the Prince of Wales; next the Vics; fourth, the Royals; and fifth, the Hochelagas. The gallant colonel delivered a short address. He thanked them for their extremely good behavior and soldierly conduct while absent. He said it would be gratifying to them to reflect that every man had done his duty, and that, too, in the noblest manner. He hoped the citizens of Montreal would take an early opportunity to give some substantial token to the men before him, of the true and high appreciation that they entertained of the conduct of their defenders. It now became his agreeable duty to dismiss them." In this way ended my experience of actual service in 1870.

To pay my detachment was next in order. As this was perhaps the last occasion on which Canadian Militia troops were quartered with Imperial soldiers, and rationed by H. M. control department, my balance sheet may prove interesting. It ran as follows:—

Isle-Aux-Noix detachment, Montreal Garrison Artillery, in account with the paymaster of the fifth military district.

Cr.	By allowance due 1 officer for 6 days, at 69c. per diem.....	\$ 4.14
	Allowance due 23 men for 6 days, at 40c. per diem.....	55.20
		\$59.34
Dr.	To amount due H. M. control department for provisions, fuel, and light for 1 officer and 23 men, for 6 days, at Isle-Aux-Noix, May, 1870—£5.5.6 stg., or.....	\$20.82
	Balance.....	\$38.52

So the officer pocketed \$3.25, and the gunners \$1.54 each.

Permit me to conclude a long screed, possibly only interesting to the parties mentioned in it, or the corps to which they belonged, by reproducing two letters which I received. The first will shew that the commander of the detachment conducted himself "as an officer and gentleman," and the second proves that his men did not absolutely laze in the sun, but thoroughly earned their 40c. a day.

"DEAR MR. WICKSTEED,—

"Pray excuse my apparent neglect in not having written before, to thank you in my own and my wife's name, for the very beautiful present you and French have sent us. I assure you we value it highly. As for your visit to the Island having put us to any inconvenience or trouble, such is not the case. On the contrary, it was to us a source of real pleasure, and we are only glad to think that we were able in ever so small a degree to contribute to your comfort.

"Yours most sincerely,

"EDWARD W. DAVIES,

"Royal Canadian Rifle Regt.

"Isle-Aux-Noix, P.Q., June 6th, 1870."

"Isle-aux-Noix, 30th May, 1870.

"DEAR MR. WICKSTEED,—

"I am happy to be able to congratulate you on the progress made by your men at gun drill during their short stay here.

"Very truly yours,

G. A. FRENCH, Lieut. R.A.,

"Commanding Garrison Isle-Aux-Noix."

This letter, with many verbal commendations to the like or stronger effect, was valued very highly, coming from a man highly versed in his branch of the service, and now holding the high position of colonel commanding the local forces in Queensland.

An appropriate conclusion will be, I think, the collect used in the Anglican churches, of the diocese of Montreal, in a special thanksgiving service, in June, 1870:

"O Heavenly Father, who art the Giver of all our blessings, our Helper in the time of trouble, and our Deliverer from every danger, we desire to offer up our humble and hearty thanks unto Thee for Thy late mercies vouchsafed unto us. Thou hast graciously delivered us from the hands of our enemies; Thou hast brought to naught all their unholy devices, and driven them back from our borders with shame and confusion of face."

R. J. WICKSTEED, CAPT.,

Late M.G.A.

Queries and Replies.

Q. I observe the following in the 30th October No. of *The Graphic*, page 468, Capetown illustrated:—"Capetown has the honor of having the oldest volunteer regiment in the British Empire. It had its volunteer regiment before the English volunteer movement of 1859."

It does not say *when* the Capetown corps was organized, but with regard to the claim of being the "oldest," etc., I would like to hear the matter argued by some of our Canadian veterans. We don't usually take a back seat: RELEGATED.
London, Eng., 18th Nov., 1886.

A. We start with the difficulty that our forces are now militia; and although they are accepted at Wimbledon as volunteers, a stickler for subtle distinctions might object that there are no volunteers at all in Canada. Waiving that point, there is no question that many of our corps were in existence, as at present constituted, prior to 1859, although the law that has governed them has been several times changed, and they were all volunteers at the time of the passage of Sir George Cartier's militia bill in 1868. The oldest corps chronicled in our current militia list is the Quebec field battery of artillery, which is there recorded as having been organized in 1855; on the same authority Lieut.-Col. Darcy Boulton, commanding the 3rd cavalry, has retained his present rank since 1857; which would seem to indicate a necessarily more remote date

for the establishment of the corps to which he then belonged to admit of his having attained that rank. An officer of an antiquarian turn of mind to whom we applied for help in the solution of this problem, has written us as follows: I believe Nova Scotia has the oldest regiment in Canada, but before Confederation it was, I think, more properly a militia than a volunteer force. The 65th Princess Louise Fusiliers' colors were presented to their predecessors in the old Nova Scotia militia by the Queen's father, the late Duke of Kent; this must have been very early in the present century. The date when the Duke was commander-in-chief at Halifax I forget, but he died in 1820, a few days before his father, George III. The oldest corps I know of is the Prescott troop of cavalry. They, I believe, are the direct descendants of somebody's dragoons, raised during the war of 1812-13. I am sure that there are in Canada many corps that must date from the rebellion of 1837.

Regimental Notes.

We wish to publish information respecting all the doings of all corps. Will the officers interested, particularly at a distance, assist us by having news relating to their corps promptly forwarded?

Brantford.—A meeting of the Dufferin rifles was held at the orderly rooms on the 16th, when it was resolved to establish a sergeants' mess. Sergt.-Major Barber will have charge. It is intended that the rooms shall be nicely fitted up and opened with a spread at New Years.

Ottawa.—The officers and men of the Governor General's Foot Guards are not going to be idle between now and the commencement of the next annual drill. Lt.-Col. Macpherson having laid out congenial work for all ranks. The officers will meet in their orderly room one night a week during the winter months, and will turn about give essays on military duties. The non-commissioned officers' class under the able instruction of Adjutant Hodgins, is making great progress. All candidates for stripes will hereafter have to pass a pretty severe examination. To obtain corporals' certificates 60 per cent. of the total marks must be obtained, and for sergeants', 75 per cent. A meeting of all the members of the Guard's will be held Friday to devise means for keeping up active interest in the corps during the winter months. The formation of company athletic clubs is talked of, and a regimental snowshoe club is also a probability.

Montreal.—The Royal Scots' snowshoe club held their annual meeting last week. The report showed the club to be in a very satisfactory financial condition, and everything points to a most successful season. It was decided to hold their tramps every Tuesday evening to Donahue's, starting this week. It was arranged that a monthly handicap steeplechase should be held, a novelty which it is expected will meet with favor and prove successful. After a vote of thanks to the retiring officers the following gentlemen were elected to fill the positions for the present season:—Hon. president, Lt.-Col. Caverhill; president, Captain Gault; 1st vice do, Sergt. W. J. Kearns; 2nd vice do, Private Kerr; secy-treas., Private F. Rowe. Committee—Captain Lydon, Color-Sergeant McGillon, Sergeant Black and Private McKenzie, with power to add to their number.

The high estimation in which the late Father Prevost was held by the 65th battalion, to which regiment he was chaplain, and which he accompanied throughout the North-west campaign, was testified by the large attendance of members at his funeral service in St. Peter's church on the 1st. Besides about 150 men of the battalion in plain clothes, there were in uniform the following officers of the regiment: Lt.-Col. Quimet and Captains Robert, Giroux, Ethier, Roy, Bauset, Doherty, Villeneuve, Destroismaisons, with Lieutenants Robert, Laframboise, Hebert, Ostell, Desnoyers and Labelle. These occupied seats in proximity to the sanctuary. Captains Ethier, Robert, Giroux and Villeneuve accompanied the remains to their last resting place in the cemetery of the Oblat Order at Lachine.

Montreal.—The Victoria rifles have just held a highly successful bazaar in aid of the fund for their new armoury. It was opened from Wednesday to Saturday of last week and reopened on Tuesday evening last for the disposal of articles remaining over. The net receipts it is expected will foot up in the neighborhood of the handsome sum of \$4,500. Each company had a section of its own at the bazaar with some particular attraction, and each vied with the other in ensuring the success which attended their combined efforts. In the voting contest, the conditions of which were published last week, the poll at the close on Tuesday stood as follows: 90th battalion, Winnipeg 2,180, Montreal garrison artillery 2,054, 6th Fusiliers 212, Prince of Wales' rifles 110, 5th Royal Scots 90, Corner Stone Veterans 80, 65th battalion 46, Queen's Own rifles 34, Montreal field battery 20, Governor-General's Foot Guards 19, 13th batt. Hamilton 8, 63rd Halifax 2, 85th Longueuil 2, 54th regiment Richmond 2, 7th London 1, Richmond field battery 1.

Chatham, N.B.—No 2 company of the 73rd battalion had a church parade on Sunday 21st November, at which 36 men attended. Headed by the band of the regiment they marched to St. Luke's Methodist church, where Rev. Mr Harrison conducted the service and preached an appropriate sermon.

After the conclusion of the services the corps formed up in front of the church and under the command of Lieutenant Mackenzie marched back to the rink where the parade was dismissed. The men marched well and looked very soldierly in their red tunics and new white helmets. We are pleased to learn that this fine company which has some of the best young men of Chatham in its ranks, has been keeping up regular drills since the conclusion of the annual drill in camp at Sussex, where they, in common with the other companies of the 73rd, won very high commendations from Lieut.-Col. Maunsell, D.A.G., in command of the district.

Militia General Orders, No. 21, of 10th December, 1886.

No. 1.—REGULATIONS AND ORDERS FOR THE MILITIA, 1883.

Permanent Corps.

Transfers—No. 2 of General Orders (5) 8th February, 1884, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Transfers of enlisted men, when specially authorized, may be made from one battery to another in the regiment of Canadian artillery, or from one company to another in the I.S.C., provided the expense incurred by any such transfer does not exceed (\$10) ten dollars.

(a) When a transfer is being made the register sheet (Form No. 196) of the man to be transferred—when duly certified by the captain of the battery or company, and approved by the commandant—is to be detached from its butt, or counterfoil, in book, and transmitted to the commandant of the battery or company to which the man is to be transferred.