

bolts does it become unsound. Twice it has happened to myself to have a wooden stirrup break down under me, once causing me a heavy fall; and I have seen the same thing happen to others so often that I at one time took a prejudice against it and used the open iron stirrup as safer. But there is no denying that the open iron stirrup gives nothing like so firm a seat as the hooded wooden one. The necessity of pressing upon it in order to keep your feet from slipping forward deranges the seat; whereas in the hooded stirrup the foot hangs as easily as when riding bareback.

I have come to the conclusion that a light iron stirrup hooded is better than either, and the wonder is that it has not been issued. It would be cheaper in the end, as it would last.

The McClellan saddle is a very poor one as far as lasting goes. Two years knocks all the glory out of it, and there are so many useless little bits of toggery about it, which are constantly getting lost or broken, that it is a wonder it has held its ground so long. But, as in the case of Colt's revolver, a single excellence has counterbalanced its many defects. It is comfortable to ride in, and if it fits the horse any way near, it never gives sore back.

Take it all in all, it is the best military saddle yet in use. The Texan is still better in its way; but still, strip the McClellan saddle to the bare tree, use a leathorn surcingle with a ring strap girth and a breast strap, throw a pair of useful saddle-bags across the seat, and girth them a little in rear of the saddle girth, and you have as good a cavalry saddle as a man need wish for. Put a long grain bag behind, and all is complete.

With regard to bridling, the first thing that suggests itself is this, that all our military bits are far too heavy, as also the head gear in general. There is a bridle in use in Buenos Ayres for mounted troops that is excellent in this connection. There is no halter. Instead of this a leathern collar is used, which goes just back of the ears. The French Chasseurs d'Afrique, the best cavalry of their country, use the same collar instead of a halter. No horse can slip out of it, it fits so close, though not tight. To the sides of the collar the check-pieces of the bridle hook in two little rings made for the purpose.

This bridle is wonderfully light and strong, and by far the simplest we have ever seen. Simplicity is a great recommendation for military purposes. It saves time in bridling a great object on picket duty especially, to give the horse as much time to rest and feed as possible, without danger of a surprise finding you unready.

The bits of Mexicans, Guachos, Turks, and Arabs are alike savage things. Our military bits follow them too much. The lighter a bit, the better. A thin wire snaffle mouthpiece, quite straight, with two long but very light curb branches annexed to it, is the best bit I know of for military rough riding. It very much resembles the Yelham bit. The reins should be single, and transferable to either snaffle or curb to suit mouths.

As regards appearance, I am decidedly of opinion that all metal work, buckles, curb branches, etc., intended for show, should be of brass, not steel. The difficulty of keeping steel clean in the field is almost inconceivable. At the end of the war, our cavalry, with their steel scabbards, blued carbines and pistols, presented the appearance of a pack of ill-clad bushwhackers, with

dirty weapons and dingy saddle trappings, impossible to make smart.

(To be continued.)

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.]

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER AND PRESENTATION.

The officers of the 66th H. V. B. Infantry Regiment gave a dinner to their Colonel, J. J. Bremner last evening at the Halifax Hotel.

About forty officers and guests sat down to a dinner gotten up with the usual admirable taste of "Mino Host" of the "Halifax."

After Grace had been said by Rev. Mr. Campbell, Major Morrow, in the absence of Sonic. Major Oldright, read the following addresses:

To Lieut.-Col. James J. Bremner, Commanding 66th Halifax Volunteer Battalion of Infantry:

We the officers of the Regiment under your command, beg leave to request your acceptance of the Sword and accompaniments, which we present to you herewith, as a testimonial of our respect and esteem.

Many of us have long been associated with you in other positions in the Local Forces of Nova Scotia, and have thus had frequent opportunities of observing the order and diligence which have uniformly characterized the discharge of your Military duties.

Your untiring zeal in the discharge of your duties as Commanding Officer of the 66th, and the uniform kindness and courtesy, which you have always shown to those under your command, render this presentation a duty alike honorable to you and agreeable to ourselves.

Our earnest prayer is that every blessing may attend your amiable lady, yourself and family, and that you may long be spared to command the corps to which we have the honor to belong.

H. D. OLDRIGHT,
Lt.-Col. & Major 66th H.V.B.I.
JAS. B. MORROW, Major.
W. H. NEAL, Quartermaster.
W. B. SLATTERY, Surgeon.
GEORGE MACLEAN, Capt. Paymaster.
R. J. WATT, Capt.
JOHN W. WATT, Capt.
E. H. REEVES, Capt.
GEORGE GUY, Capt.
ALFRED BROOME, Capt.
G. E. FRANKLYN, Lt.
GEORGE W. HART, Lt.
C. H. HERWOOD, Lt.
WM. DENCE, Lt.
WM. M. HUMPHREY, Ens.

Halifax, N. S., March 1871.

The present referred to is a beautiful Sword and an Embossed Scabbard; Sash and Sword-belt and gold spurs, enclosed in a beautiful mahogany case, costing in all about 60 guineas. On the sword and on the case the following inscription is engraved:

"Presented to Lieut.-Col. J. J. Bremner, Commander 66th Halifax Volunteer Battalion of Infantry, by his officers, March A. D., 1871."

The rich, tasteful appearance of the testimonial attracted every body's attention,

Lt.-Col. Bremner in reply to Major Morrow read the following:

Halifax, N. S., April 3, 1871.

Lieut.-Col. Oldright and Brother Officers of the 66th Halifax Volunteer Infantry Battalion:

It is with feelings impossible for me adequately to express, that I accept this handsome and valuable testimonial, which you have now presented to me, accompanied with such flattering expressions of your esteem and respect.

I have long been associated with most of you in the Militia service, and my experience in the former organization, of your diligence in the discharge of your duties, and your uniform courtesy and kindly feelings towards me, always making every allowance for my many imperfections as your commanding officer, encouraged me to enter upon the formation of our present Volunteer Battalion, of which we are all so proud. I was also encouraged by receiving the hearty support of some officers not previously connected with us, whose reputation was high and in whom we all had confidence. My expectations and my confidence in you have never been disappointed, and in accepting this fresh evidence of your kindly feelings towards me, I must acknowledge how little I could have accomplished without your hearty co-operation and sympathy.

The honor which you have done me I can never forget. I will ever cherish the memory of this evening as one of the proudest of my life, and I trust that the handsome sword which you have now presented to me, will be handed down in my family from generation to generation, as one of the most honoured heir looms, which it can ever possess.

I heartily thank you for your kind wishes for myself and family; and that every blessing may ever attend you and yours, is my sincere prayer, and I trust that our intercourse, as officers of the Halifax Volunteer Infantry Battalion, may be long continued in the same harmonious and friendly spirit as has hitherto characterized it.

Thanking you most heartily for the high honor which you have done me.

I remain, gentlemen,
ever yours faithfully,

JAS. J. BREMNER,
Lt.-Col. Com. 66th "H. V. I. B.

During the dinner the 66th H. V. B. Infantry Band, played, in a style which elicited from the speakers hearty encomiums for excellence, the following programme of Music:

1. Grand March..... Webber.
2. Fantasia sur Robin des Bois.... Pillard.
3. Valse, Dominion..... Sullvan.
4. Galop, Mic Mac..... Webb.
5. Royal Canadian Quadrilles.... Italic.
6. Galop, Night Bell..... Clark.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

After dinner the Chairman Major Morrow proposed the health of the "Queen" which was received as became a true British Regiment like the 66th.

"The Governor General."

"The Lieut.-Governor and Staff"—responded to by Col. Sinclair who spoke highly of the efficiency of the regiment, and especially of that of the band, which he said ought to be far better than that of any line regiment, as in the latter case they merely had 4 or 500 men to pick from whilst in the volunteers there was the whole, community of several thousands from which to select.