

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

To the Editor of the VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

Woodstock, Nov. 20, 1872

DEAR SIR.—I should like to ask through the columns of the Review, whether or not, it was ever intended by the law, that a gentleman, holding a first class certificate from the Board of Examiners, could then enter the military school and obtain a second class certificate and fifty dollars, when his first class one awarded by the board embraces everything. If so, I say it is downright robbery to allow any person to do so, when he is already qualified, at least the Board says so.

Now Mr. Editor, a few lines in reference to who compose the Board, and what they know about drill. I believe the Law, confining it to the Deputy Adjutant General of Militia, Brigade Major of the division, and Lieutenant Colonel of the Regiment, whom the candidate belongs to, is all very well, providing those officers know their places, but, I am sorry to say, the colonels in our Province, with one or two exceptions, are woefully deficient in drill, in fact, New Brunswick can boast of Commanding officers who have been in the Volunteers since the time of the Prince of Wales's visit in the year 1860, up to the present moment, and yet they don't know actually one single section in the drill book, but have first class certificates, (cooked of course). The assertion, Mr. Editor you may think untrue, but I am prepared to prove, or substantiate, should you require it, by mentioning names, and these are the gentlemen who award certificates by appending their names to recommendations to Head Quarters.

It ought, I think, to be the duty of the D.A. Gens. to rid regiments of these men, by recommending to have their commissions cancelled for incompetency, instead of cooking up their bad case, so that he might be able to boast to the Adjutant General of the Forces, of the very efficient state of the Volunteers in his district when the former gentleman made his tour to our Province; in fact that gentleman would be able to judge for himself.

As it stands, the hand of the indicator points to the opposite direction, as was clearly proven at the Brigade Camp held in our city in July last.

Yours respectfully.

GEORGE STAMP.

EDITORS NOTE.—The practice maintained by our correspondent, is an abuse of the worst character, it is illegal also. We decline discussing the question of competency, but he must be a very stupid field officer, that will not learn something in a period of twelve years. Our correspondent must recollect that his assertions are not conducive to discipline.—Ed. Vol. Rev.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA.

## SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.

Victoria, B.C., 14th Nov., 1872.

Previous to the departure of the Adjutant General, a memorial, extensively signed, was presented to him praying for the appointment of Captain Delacombe, R.M., Commandant at San Juan, as Deputy Adjutant General, and it is now supposed that Captain Haughton's appointment is by no means secure. It would appear that this latter gentleman has (deservedly or not, I cannot say) numerous and energetic enemies in Victoria. They have not let the grass grow under their feet in working to his detriment, while the Adjutant General was here, and I am inclined to think that a considerable amount of success has attended their efforts. This morning appears in the *Standard* another announcement, that Lieut. Sturt, R.M., of the San Juan Force is likely to receive the appointment.

Whatever may be the result of those movements it is of course impossible to predict. I do not know Mr. Sturt personally, Captain Delacombe is unquestionably a gentleman and I believe a sharp officer. Army gentlemen have a fair field here, where there has been no force sufficiently important to develop the capacities of its officers before the public in such a manner as to create confidence in them on the part that Hydra. I do not observe that the best volunteer officers here seem to feel confidence in themselves as to the handling and guidance of any considerable body of men. Yet there is among them a strong common sense and intelligence which is characteristic, in different degrees, of the whole population, and would no doubt, go far, with respect to the two or three gentlemen who are candidates for B.M. ships, to constitute them respectable organizers.

In Canada, where we can publicly guage our officers, and know that in the Dominion Militia, there is no scarcity of men fully equal, as to their military knowledge, to the average of Army officers of the present day, (and they are, or ought to be, more than equal to the men of "sixty years since") while many are absolutely superior to that average. I trust that we have seen the last of the appointments of Linesmen to the Militia Staff, either direct from their regiment, or from half pay, without previous service in the Militia.

It is fully time that the Dominion Army ceases to be a charitable institute for gentlemen, who find it convenient to leave the Army, and turn up their insolent noses for years at the military arrangements generally, but evince remarkable alacrity in developing new opinions whenever there is a Staff appointment to be got. The 100th Regiment ought, certainly to feel deeply indebted to the Benevolent Asylum afforded to its officers by the Militia of Canada, as we have

already four staff officers from that gallant corps, and a fifth was a candidate for the Deputy Adjutant Generalship in British Columbia, only that the politic delays of the ministry were out the poor fellows leave and patience together. I neither say a word, nor imply a thought, hostile to such gentlemen as Major Chas Boulton of the 46th, (E. Durham,) who, on selling out, join a Militia Regiment in such rank as may be offered to them, and fairly and honestly do their work, as regimental officers. Let all that they can get be open to them.

But the few officers of the existing remnants of the Volunteer Corps here; all left England some years ago, before the mother country had followed the example of Canada in initiating examinations of officers, they have not seen such a large homogeneous force worked on broad and simple principles—for the English system has been, until lately, cumbrous, complicated, and involved—and they probably share with the mass of the population the prevalent distrust of the efficiency of officers who have not been in the army. By and bye, when the service has been built up to respectable dimensions, when military schools, and Brigade Camps, have elicited aptitude, and inspired confidence, I trust we shall have no more appointments to suit the convenience of retired Army Officers even here. One officer here, however, who was on active service with his militia regiment, for, I believe, two or three years during the Crimean War, is an exception to the Volunteer officers alluded to.

I perceive, after all, that in a recent article you give the Prussians full credit for their "discipline," as the main cause of their success. I shall presently, with your permission, have something to say on that point, i.e. discipline, I "take notice" also as the Toronto folks say, of what is written on loose formation, which as you observe, will shortly be the only formations practicable within range of an enemy's fire. I shall also, as soon as I have time, have a few remarks to make on the subject of tactics, as adapted to present knowledge of the effects of rifle and artillery fire and range. I venture in the meantime to predict another Drill Book, admirable as is the present one, in two years.

The Bill to carry out the fishery clause of the Treaty of Washington was made a special order for the second Tuesday in January next.

That portion of the Message relating to Utah is highly gratifying to the anti-Mormon community. The *Herald* (church organ) says that the President has been misinformed and misled, and that in no part of the United States is the constitution held in more reverence and the laws esteemed more sacred than in Utah. The *Journal* (anti Mormon) refutes these assertions in strong terms.