

We never asked for it. We presume that the Commanding Officer acted on the request made in the Prospectus of the *Canada Military Gazette*. What has become of our old friend Colonel Breckenridge and the old Rifle Battalion of Montreal? We can hardly sufficiently thank our friends for the encouragement already given, and the promptitude with which they have acceded to our requests. Above all we have to thank the Adjutant General, the Baron de Rotenburg for the lists of appointments, without which it would have been absolutely impossible to compile the "Army List."

It is no part of our business to publish long lists of our subscribers, to the edification of no one. It is quite sufficient that we receive the subscriptions and our subscribers get their papers; we only hope that they will be prompt in warning us if they do not.

To the Editor of the Montreal Advertiser.

SIR.—Scarcely a week passes by, without the "Canada Gazette," published by Authority, coming out, with a number of militia appointments, above the rank of Captain in the Active Force. Will you oblige by informing the public by what law these promotions are made; and why parties who have been but a few months in Canada are appointed over the heads of Captains of 1837 and 1844?

January 9, 1857.

[We can find no authority in the militia law for the appointments alluded to; and a list one among them is exceedingly objectionable. Nothing but very extraordinary merit can justify the selection of comparative strangers, but newly arrived in the country. We are not aware that this reason is applicable to the present case.—[Ed. C.A.]

The letter and editorial note which are quoted above are clipped from a late number of the *Montreal Commercial Advertiser*, forming another example of folly rushing into type.—Our wonder is that our friend, the Editor, did not put on his considering cap for two minutes, as we are well aware that he could have answered the question in a most satisfactory manner, if he had thought for that length of time, for no one is more up in constitutional law than he is.

It is asked "by what law appointments in the Active Force are made above the rank of Captain"—and the Editor of the *Advertiser* says that he can find no authority in the Militia law for the appointments alluded to. Of course he cannot—nor will he, if he search till Doomsday, find any statute of the Parliament of ENGLAND, under which rank is conferred in the British army, from a Field Marshal to an Ensign.

The SOVEREIGN is the sole fountain of honor, be that sovereign King or Queen, Emperor or Grand Duke, in all monarchical governments. The Mutiny Act passed annually in the Parliament of the Empire provides for the maintenance of discipline and good order in HER MAJESTY'S land forces; an annual vote is taken in the Parliament of the Empire which fixes the number of men and provides such sums of money as are necessary for the equipment and maintenance of HER MAJESTY'S land forces.—There is no mention whatever made of the rank of the officers, what officers there shall be, or shall not be, or by what titles they shall be called. All that is left to the SOVEREIGN, or in other words to the Executive power. Will "the Volunteer of '37" be good enough to tell us by what law the rank of Major was abolished in the Artillery and Engineers—by what law the

rank of Ensign was changed in Fusilier and Rifle Regiments to that of Lieutenants—under what law the QUEEN some few months ago created three Field Marshals?

All collect in the army hold their rank, through the exercise of the Royal Prerogative and during pleasure. THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, in this country, represents the QUEEN, and exercises the prerogative in her name; he exercises it, in the case of the Militia just as do the Lords Lieutenant of the Counties in GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND.

The Parliament of GREAT BRITAIN votes annually a certain number of men for the land forces, and a certain sum for their maintenance. They are divided into Regiments &c. and officered at the will of the Executive. The Parliament of CANADA in the same manner voted for a certain number of men; and for a certain sum of money. These men have been divided into a certain number of Troops, Batteries, and companies. It is quite true that under the Act no man commanding one of these small corps can receive more than a captain's pay, nor does he. But there is nothing in the Act to prevent the exercise of the Prerogative in giving higher rank.

It will be found necessary, as it has been already, to make from time to time, further promotions in the Active force, for this simple reason, that owing to deaths, removals from the country, resignations &c. continual promotions go on in the Sedentary portion of the Force, who literally do sit, at home, doing nothing, the representatives of a force existing on paper. It would be manifestly a most unfair thing to allow Captains of the Active Force who are doing the work to remain Captains for years, and the Subalterns without the slightest chance of promotion, while the officers of the Sedentary force who are doing nothing are creeping over their heads to Majorities and Colonelcies. If it could be imagined that such a gross injustice would be perpetrated, the whole of the officers of the Active force would resign.

We know nothing of the appointment of "parties who have been a few months in CANADA over the heads of Captains of 1837 and 1838." We suspect that the Captains thus passed by, if any there be, are gentlemen who have not come forward to take part in the recent organization by volunteering to raise companies. If so, that is their own *laches*, and cannot be laid at the door of the authorities. In volunteers it is quite one thing to have previous militia rank, but it is quite another thing to have popularity enough to get officers and men to serve under you. If the old Captains of those two stick-in-the-mud years, with which our ears are continually bored, felt confident in their popularity why did they not come out, and raise men to fill up companies? What right have they to complain if other men have stepped out to do that which they did not do?—They have no excuse, because every one knew that the Militia Act was passed and would be instantly acted on. Had they then acted, there would have been no occasion for the present grumbling.

As to the particular "exceedingly objectionable appointment," as we have not the slightest idea to what appointment the words apply, we can of course say nothing about it.

COLONEL GRAY OF QUEBEC, paints a deplorable picture of the Volunteers of Canada, alluding of course to the newly organized force, which is called the "Active Militia," he designates the whole force—"Rose-water Soldiers"—he says that they are covered with ginger-bread gilding, and that such jimmickery is merely flirting with soldiery—"we have seen hung up in the gallant Colonel's best parlour a portrait of himself in which he is depicted, perhaps by some pictorial license, in a pair of rose-colored breeches. There is no objection to rose-colored breeches that we know of, for about two hundred of the 11th rode their death ride at Balachava in breeches of the very same color; but a man who commands a Volunteer corps and wilfully adopts rose-colored breeches must not be offended if we say he is a—Cherrybun.

The fact is the reverse—so far from adopting gaudy uniforms, which we acknowledge to be in desperately bad taste, the majority of the volunteer corps in Canada have adopted most singularly plain ones, and we rather think that we have seen more of them than has the gallant Colonel.

Now the Colonel must not if he ever sees this paper, misunderstand us for one moment. We have no earthly hostility to him; it is perhaps the other way, for in his life time and ours, there have been some pleasant passages; but we can't stand that which with respect to all that we have seen, is not the case.

We quite agree with the three rules which he lays down as the three essentials of soldiery altho' on this head he and the "Great Frederick" do not exactly accord; "Obedience, Knowledge of their weapons, and CapACITY for moving rapidly;"—all these are good, very good; no one will deny it—but let us ask the Colonel, can you ensure all this to any Militia, unless to a Militia, embodied like that of England, put into barracks or cantonments, and treated in all respect like soldiers of the line. It is great to have done what we have done in organizing, and so far as time allowed bringing the "Rose-water" companies into the state in which they are.

There may have been some soporific about some corps—we don't say there has not been; all we say is that we have seen some thirty corps of all arms, and found nothing of it; but even some little of this thing is very pardonable—we recollect hearing a very old soldier a man who had the Peninsular gold cross with eight clasps, a sufficient record of what he had seen, say, that he always liked to see a watch ribbon and half a dozen seals dangling under a soldier's jacket, for it was a sure sign that he was a good soldier and no haunter of the canteen.

The accusation of "finery" on the part of the Volunteers, the Colonel must allow us to say, won't stand. General Eyre puts his own legs into big boots like a sensible man, who knows what hard work is, and he, who has seen all our corps, knows pretty well what they are, and has found no fault. What more does any one want?

We utterly and in the most direct terms deny the fact "that the men in the ranks (of the Volunteer corps) are not of the right stamp, or the major part of them"—all the corps that we have seen, and the one that the writer has himself the honor to command, are composed of men