

stream in divisions of 20 men abreast; unused to implicit obedience, each company breaks or separates; some seek the shallow parts, some get upon the plank, others seek for stepping stones; every old soldier will bear testimony to the almost insuperable difficulty of making young troops march boldly through a stream of this kind, or even, through one only a few inches in depth. While this is going on, the column slopes into a more dense mass: it ought not, but it does so. Some commanders of battalions endeavour to keep their men in the ranks; others mischievously good-natured wink at the filing over the plank; "Come lads," say they, "run over the plank quick, and keep yourselves dry; come run." While the staff officers left by the General to make the men go through in divisions, vainly try to establish order, and thereby add to the delay. Now suppose there be thirty battalions, and that each battalion delay its march ten minutes, by this piling and stragling over the stream, the loss of time is *five hours!* At four o'clock the general disposition looks in vain for the expected column. Attacked in position he falls back upon the marching column, which hearing the firing, has pushed on and joins in dribblets, exhausted and quite unfit to fight; but fight it must, and the battle is lost, because the young soldiers would not wet their feet! They chose to detide what was to be done,—"Where is the use of getting wet for nothing?" But it is not only the loss of a combat that may result from men picking their steps through puddles, and not fording streams in order of battle—an enemy may escape, soldiers are lost; they get benighted; they lose the time allowed for sleep, and are again obliged to march before they get rest; fever ensues; and hundreds fall exhausted; lost to their country and to their friends!

This country has spent an enormous sum of money during the past ten years upon its militia organization, keeping up military schools, buying arms, material, and clothing; and forming camps of instruction; all very important and necessary expenditures, which have raised the militia force of Canada to the proud position it to day occupies; and let me tell you, that those who disparage the Canadian army know very little about it, or the power it possesses. No country has ever been able to do so much in so short a time, and at so little expense—thanks to the patriotism and manly spirit of the people of Canada.

But discipline has been entirely overlooked; that implicit obedience to superior command, necessary to ensure success, has too often given way before political exigencies amongst the higher ranks of our officers; so that it cannot be a matter of surprise to see the difficulty the last named lance corporal has in enforcing it with his "awkward squad"—notwithstanding discipline is the

first quality and requirement of a soldier politics the very last thing he should ever meddle with. For my part I see little chance of improvement until we can adopt the principle of having officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, in barracks for a fixed period; let it be short or long, of course the longer the better.

In a recent lecture delivered at the Royal United Service Institution upon the Siege of Paris, Surgeon Major Wyatt says—"Every civilian force, to be reliable in time of war, must submit to strict military discipline, which should be the more rigid in proportion to the youth of the men and length of service contemplated; but when every man may do what is right in his own eyes, and submit to just as little control from his superior officers as happens to be suited to his own views, all hope of true discipline must end; and when a National Army is saturated with the contagious sentiment of liberty and equality, it will invariably be impatient of control by the constituted authorities."

I suppose my readers know that a large force of permanent cavalry upon the European model, cannot be maintained in Canada for very many years to come. Well then there is just as much the more necessity, that the present small force should be as highly trained as possible, in fact every individual in himself should be the very model of a light cavalry soldier of the present day—and modern open war if it teaches us anything, teaches us this, that for troops without discipline there is no place whatever.

To attain then this object some mode of imparting instruction different from the present system is necessary, and surely if it is worth while to spend so many millions of dollars upon our army, a few hundreds need not be grudged when a question of efficiency is involved. In no other way can it be done at so little cost, and at the same time so effectually as by the system of Brigade Schools, recommended by our late Adj. Gen. these schools will combine all the requirements necessary to turn out either first class officers non-commissioned officers, or men, for the three arms; and at the same time one of the schools can also be all we want in the shape of a staff college; besides being much better suited to the requirements of our militia, than any Sandhurst or West Point, either of which would be an expensive model, and totally beyond the wants of this country; which has no regular army to gazette the young cadets into, or passing their examinations; as is done in England and the United States.

The cost of this system need not be more expensive than the present one—in fact Lt. Col. French reported in 1871 that the vote for Military Schools in that year was actually reduced \$15,000 on the formation of A and B Batteries, which have given such entire satisfaction; that no Government wishing for reform should hesitate to apply the same prin-

ciple to the Cavalry and Infantry arms. Of course the successful working of these Schools, as in the case of the Gunnery Schools, will depend mainly upon the qualifications and ability of the officers selected for instructors.

Apoloizing for the length of my communication by the importance of the subject,

I remain, Dear Sir,

Your obt. Servt.,

A CAVALRY INSTRUCTOR.

Quebec, 4th December, 1873.

KINGSTON CORRESPONDENCE.

Military news, like all other sorts of news in the good old limestone city, is very meagre just now. *On dit*,—poor old Col. Corbett, storekeeper here, has been discharged from his post. None can be more sorry at such news than your correspondent, who has known him many years; who knew him in the days of his prosperity, and over found him a genial sociable gentleman. I hear Captain Mattice of Cornwall, or thereabout, has got the post my old friend the late Lt. Col. Sharpe was gazetted a day or two previous to his death. I am glad that the Government have seen fit to give the post of Brigade Major in that district to an officer of the Force. I must say I think such posts should be the reward of men who have proved themselves worthy of them by sacrificing their time and means to the benefit of the Force, and consequently the country; and I do say moreover that none but men who belong to the Force should be placed in those offices. I think it an injustice to men belonging to the Service and who aspire to fill such offices as Brigade Major that outsiders, who have never spent a cent or had the trouble of raising companies, should be brought in to fill offices which by right (and I say it advisedly) belong to the officers serving in the Force.

On the 27th ult. the members of the Ontario School of Gunnery Mess entertained their late Commandant Lt. Col. French at dinner, when a pleasant evening was spent and many regrets expressed at the separation which was caused by Col. French's acceptance of the command of the Dominion Mounted Police Force in Manitoba. Colonel French left on the following Monday for his new command. K.

REVIEWS.

DOMINION MONTHLY.—The December number of the Canadian Monthly closes the publishing year. From the Prospectus for 1874, we learn that the circulation now reaches 3,200, and efforts are being made to still further increase its circulation. Premiums are offered for well-written articles, and contributions solicited. The present number has two good life likenesses of his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, and Her Imperial Highness the Princess Maria Alexandrovna who are shortly to be united in marriage at St. Petersburg.