

VICTORIA LIBRARIES.—It is with much satisfaction we announce the presentation to the Army by Her Majesty of 2,000 volumes of books, forming two libraries, packed in ten portable boxes, so as to be easily moved about. One of the libraries is to be established at Aldershot, and the other at the Curragh.

THE MILITARY TRAIN.—The Minister for War has now decided on the establishment of the Military Train, which will be organized as follows:—

A Director-General, with a Major of Brigade, in command of six battalions, each commanded by a Field-Officer, and severally consisting, in addition to the Field-Officer, of 4 Captains, 4 Lieutenants, 2 Esquias, 1 Adjutant, 1 Quartermaster, 1 Paymaster, 1 Surgeon, 1 Veterinary Surgeon, 1 Serjeant-Major, 1 Quartermaster-Serjeant, 1 Paymaster-Serjeant, 1 Orderly-room Clerk, 1 Armorer-Serjeant, 1 Trumpeter-Major, 1 Serjeant Wheeler, 1 Serjeant Saddler, 1 Farrier-Major, 2 Smiths, 3 Wheelers, 3 Collar and Harness Makers, 4 Farriers, 4 Assistant-Farriers, 4 Troop Serjeant-Majors, 16 Serjeants, 20 Corporals, 4 Trumpeters, 200 Privates, and 200 horses. Two Riding-Masters will be allowed for the six battalions. Two of the Field-Officers of the Train will be Lieut.-Colonels, and the other four Majors. The depot will consist of 1 Captain, 6 Lieutenants, 1 Adjutant, 1 Quartermaster, 1 Paymaster, 1 Surgeon, 1 Veterinary Surgeon, 1 Riding-Master, 1 Serjeant-Major, 1 Quartermaster-Serjeant, 1 Paymaster-Serjeant, 1 Orderly-room Clerk, 1 Armorer-Serjeant, 1 Trumpeter-Major, 1 Wheeler, 1 Smith, 2 Collar and Harness Makers, 2 Farriers, 2 Assistant-Farriers, 4 Trumpeters, about 224 privates, and 90 horses. The total number of all ranks will be about 1743, or 1424 rank and file.

OUR FORTIFICATIONS.—There are certain people who are in continual disquietude respecting our fortifications. Not content with having every Englishman's house a castle, they wish to make it a fortress, forgetting that England's best defence is her wooden walls. The note of alarm has been raised successively at Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, Harwich, and Alderney. It may serve to quiet the alarmists when we announce, what is well known in the military world, that very complete plans have been prepared for the defence of the country, at every vulnerable point, and that these plans have been examined and approved by the Government. To carry them into immediate execution would entail an enormous expenditure, which Parliament would not tolerate at the present moment, nor would such an outlay be justifiable in the midst of an European peace. At the same time, it is desirable that the character of these projected defences should remain a secret, and it is not likely that the authorities will reveal it, merely to satisfy curiosity or allay groundless alarm. We would remind those who raise the question, that the department of fortifications is in charge of one of the ablest officers in the service, but not more distinguished for his ability than for his assiduous attention to his duty.—*United Service Magazine*

THE CAMP AT COLCHESTER.—Colonel Street, C.B., recently delivered the following short address to the men after a dogging parade:—"That making away with necessaries had become such a common crime, particularly in the 86th

Regiment, he would visit most severely any instance that came before him, and would confirm the Court-Martial sentence in every respect, however rigorous. He was very sorry at such exhibitions, but still he would endeavor to stop such unsoldierlike conduct."—Lately a flea broke out in Captain Shepherd's hut, 4th Regiment, and by a cord flying out on the floor. The flea was soon got under.—The library is now opened. The subscribers are numerous. The books are free, numbering only 571 volumes, of which 152 require binding. There are no newspapers. The school is pretty well attended, but a small of teachers of good ability are much needed. Shoemakers and tailors' shops are now established in the Camp.—General Gaseigne has visited the Camp, and expressed his approval of the arrangements and of the condition of the troops.

DRUNKENNESS IN THE 97TH, AT PORTSMOUTH.—A court-martial was recently held at the Main Guard Parade, to make inquiry touching a robbery that took place a few nights since at a tavern called the Duke of Wellington. It appears that on a certain night lately the cellar of Mr. Squance was broken into, and several bottles of brandy, gin, and beer extracted therefrom. No suspicion was excited, until it was ascertained that on that identical night the 97th were on duty. The sentry of the Platform Battery was found dead drunk, lying on the stones, and a musket (or rifle) placed in the sentry-box. Several of the main guard were perceived to be in a complete state of intoxication, and totally unfit for duty. The next morning the superintendent of police having instituted further inquiry, got the assistance of some nightmen, and having searched the closet, at the back of the guard-house, hooked up jars of gin, &c., one bottle of which—a two-gal. on jar of rue gin—was identified by the barmaid as belonging to the Duke of Wellington Tavern. This is the second robbery committed in a very short period by the 97th, while on duty at the main guard.

The *Keesring Standard* chronicles the death of Mr. Joseph Cassey, at the Essex County Poor House, on the 20th ult., aged 114 years, as appears by the books of County House. He claimed to be much older, and according to his statements, which are pretty well authenticated, he was at the battle on the Plains of Abraham, and witnessed the fall of Montcalm, having previously been in the action of Ticonderoga, where the British were victorious over the French. With the loss of their gallant commander Lord Howe, Cassey was with a portion of the French and Indians in Canada, and showed them the first Heilands, too, to have been at the massacre at Fort William Henry by the French and Indians. In the Revolution he fought for the Americans, and was at Quebec under Montgommery, and saw that fine officer when he fell at the very moment of a supposed victory. Subsequently, for many years, he was engaged as a carrier in the Hudson's Bay Fur Company. He was a Canadian by birth, half Indian, a devoted Catholic, and presented every indication of being deeply imbued with the spirit of Christianity, singing and praying for hours, at times, after he had become too feeble to walk about or even to sit up.

A BALL was given on Friday, 16th Jan., by Lieut.-Colonel Cameron and the Officers of the 42nd Highlanders, at the Lord Warden Hotel, Dover, to a large and fashionable assembly.

THE RAYONET EXERCISE.—An adaptation of "false bayonet" to a musquet, for the purpose of exercise, according to Captain Moore's instructions, published by us, has been perfected this last week by Mr. Long, gunsmith, of this City, and admirably answers its purpose. We are now enabled to inform our brother officers, who may desire to instruct their Companies in this simple and most efficient style of personal attack and defence for foot soldiers, that old musquets sent by them to us to be prepared in this style, will be made ready at the shortest notice. The expense is trifling. Photographs of the position in bayonet and broadsword exercise, can also be obtained at this office, in a few days, by written application.

ARTILLERY EXPERIMENTS ON WHITLEY SANDS.—Colonel Wilmet, R.A., recently visited New-castle, for the purpose of inspecting experiments on Whitley Sands with Mr. W. G. Armstrong's rifled gun. Two targets, nine feet square, and a solid block of elm timber, three feet thick, were fired at with shells at the distance of 1,500 yds. The shells were projected horizontally, like the bullets, and exploded by impact. Only one shell failed to take effect upon the targets.

MILD GRIMSHAW.—Many pleasant anecdotes are told of Mr. G.—who, a good many years ago, was a retail merchant in a populous town in Vermont. He was famous as "the very pink of politeness," and was indeed an expert salesman. If he had not got the article that might happen to be called for, he was sure to name something that was sufficiently like it to answer the purpose. Thus when a customer inquired for "winter strained oil," the merchant told him he hadn't got that kind exactly—but he had some that was "strained very late in the fall!" Disparage one article as you might, he was sure to find something to praise in it—if his tea was not strong it was well flavored, &c., &c. On one occasion a customer having called for a sample of gunpowder, rubbed it in his hand to ascertain the proportion of charcoal, and then observed that it lacked strength. "I know," answered the imperturbable tradesman—falling into his old tea-formula—"I know the powder is not so strong as some, but you'll find it very mild and agreeable!"—*Post.*

As George III. was walking the quarter deck of the *Antelope* ship, with his hat on, one of the sailors observed him closely, and asked of his messmate, "Was that fellow who did not touch his peak to the Admiral?" "Why, it is the King," was the reply. "Well," said Jack, "king or no king, he's an uncommonly dog!" "Shiver my timbers!" replied the messmate, "where should he learn manners?—he was never outside of land in his life."

A dry old crust of a fellow, who was unhappy with his preacher, because the "dry vine," as Carlyle would call him, could not penetrate the thick incrustment that covered the crusty man's soul, signified to the minister his desire to have a pew nearer the pulpit. "Can't you hear?" asked the good man. "Yes," was the reply. "Can't you see?" "Yes." "Then why do you change?" "Because," said the obdurate one, "I am so far off, that when your words get to me, they are as flat as dish-water."