

6. Why are gunnery instructors still retained, to the confusion of all battery officers, and the waste of public money?

7. Why is every battery not provided with an officer (from the ranks if considered best) to superintend pay, stores, barracks, clothing, and food, which superintendence, with its consequent responsibilities, pecuniary and otherwise, is now thrown entirely upon the unfortunate battery commanding officer?

8. Is it possible for any battery commanding officer to do all this work, and yet to drill, train, discipline, and instruct his men, at the same time keeping himself up to all the changes and improvements of the day as well?—which latter was well exemplified in the following remarks made by His Royal Highness the Commander in Chief about this time last year, in the theatre of the R. U. S. Institution, "Artillery officers have such very important occupations to attend to, such vast subjects of interest from day to day—now more than ever—come before them, that they have little or no leisure for any other occupation."

9. Is the deputy adjutant general R. A. at the Horse Guards (the three last all died in harness) a sufficient authority to guide the Commander-in-Chief, always a Line or Guardsman, in artillery matters?

10. Has not the full development and perfect efficiency of the regiment been greatly retarded by not having a special chief of artillery staff as head of the regiment, assisted by an "Artillery Intelligence Department," under the Commander in Chief?

11. Is it at all necessary now to maintain inspectors general of artillery anywhere?

12. Why should not the battery at once be recognized as the unit throughout the regiment?

13. Should not majors commanding batteries be vested with full power to award all minor punishments, only bringing men before higher authority (*vide* Sir Lumley Graham's late Royal United Service Institution Essay) when it is deemed necessary to arraign them for trial before courts martial?

14. Should not all regimental colonels at once be removed from the list of officers available for any duty with the regiment, and only be appointed to commands of artillery in districts, and to brigades and divisions of the army in their turn with the officers of similar rank throughout the Guards, Cavalry, and Line?—Yours truly,

FUTONELL.

R.A. and R.E. Club, 3, Pall Mall,
February 9, 1876.

Launch of the Shannon.

The most economical ironclad frigate ever built for the Royal Navy was launched at Pembroke Yard on the 11th inst. The *Shannon* was destroyed in the summer of 1873, and since then has been in course of construction under the directions of F. Martin, Esq., the Chief-Constructor of the yard. The length of this ship is 260 feet, breadth fifty-four feet, and mean draught of water twenty-one feet three inches. At this draught she will displace 5103 tons.

The armour protection of the *Shannon* is arranged in the most singular manner; there being no other specimen of the kind afloat. The armour plated belt extends from right aft to about sixty feet from the bow, and at that point a transverse armour-plated bulkhead extends to some feet above the upper deck. All the guns are fought abaft this bulkhead, which therefore

protects them from raking fire. Above the upper deck the sides are armour plated for a sufficient distance abaft the armoured bulkhead to protect two 18-ton guns, which may be fired right ahead or the broadside. On the fore-side of the armour plated bulkhead, a 3 inch armoured deck is laid at five feet below the water line, the space between that deck and the main deck being filled in with about 100 tons of coals. When the coals are consumed, the ship can be kept to her trim by filling this space with water. The whole length of the main deck abaft the bulkhead is covered with 1½ inch iron plates. The armour plating in the belt at the water line is 9 inches thick and 6 inches thick above; the trunk backing being 10 inches and 13 inches thick respectively. The armour-plating on the bulkhead will be nine inches and eight inches thick, and the backing ten inches. The armament will consist of nine 18-ton guns and six Gatling guns. The indicated horse power is expected to be 3500, which will give a speed of about thirteen knots. The total quantity of coals carried will be about 280 tons.

Mr. Barnaby, the Director of Naval Construction, stated in a paper read to the Institution of Naval Architects in 1874, that the *Shannon* will be as unassailable as the *Hercules* or *Sultan*. He also stated that if he were to compare the *Shannon* with existing ironclads he should pit her against the latest three completed, viz.—the *Swiftsure* and *Triumph*; although the cost would stand in the ratio of 63 for the *Swiftsure* to 54 for the *Shannon*. Two such ships as the *Shannon* can be built at the same outlay as for one *Alexandra*. The total cost of the *Shannon* will be £240,000, while the unarmoured *Shah* will cost at least £267,000. When we remember that the comparatively unprotected and inoffensive *Achilles* class cost £450,000 a piece, while each of the wooden ironclad compromises, known as the *Prince Consort* class, cost £250,000, the economical character of this design is apparent, especially when the rise in the cost of materials and labour during the past ten years is taken into account. We think the nation may be congratulated upon the fact that for £240,060 we have launched as good an ironclad as the Turks have secured in *Mendouhje*—launched this week—at a cost of at least £350,000.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor does not hold himself responsible for individual expressions of opinion in communications addressed to the VOLUNTEER REVIEW. The real name of the writer must invariably accompany each communication to insure insertion, but not necessarily for publication.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MONTREAL, 8th April 1876.

The last *Social* for the Prince of Wales Rifles took place at the Sergeants' Mess room on the 3rd inst. The room was crowded to its full extent: The chair was occupied by Sergeant Major Johnson; and present on the platform were Colonel Fletcher, D. A. General, C. M. G., Colonel Bacon, R. Major, Colonel Lovelace, Cavalry Staff, Col. Lyman, Majors Bond, Barnjum and many other officers. Suffice it to say that the programme was carried out very successfully. At its termination Major Bond on behalf of the guests and his brother officers, tendered

his warm thanks to the chairman and N. C. Officers of the corps for the course of entertainments given during the winter months, assuring them that they had the entire sympathy and support of their officers in all movements conducive to the credit of the old *First*. Colonel Fletcher and Colonel Lyman made some brief remarks relative to the formation of the Rifles some 22 years since, Colonel Lyman stating that he raised No. 1 Company, Col. Fletcher No 2, and that with the exception of two troops of the Royal Montreal Cavalry, re-organized at that time, they were the only uniformed corps in the Dominion. The National Anthem closed the proceeding.

It is expected that the whole of the City force will parade on Her Majesty's Birthday; it is now many years since the Volunteers have done honor to the natal day of our beloved Sovereign, and every corps I am certain, will be well represented on such an auspicious occasion.

The proposal by a member of the P. Parliament to discard the *Scarlet Tunic*, and substitute *Grey* for the glorious old British valor, will find no response in the hearts of our volunteers.

A motion has been made in the Council of the Corporation to either have the old drill shed re-roofed or to provide proper accommodation for the Volunteer elsewhere; this, it is to be hoped, will take place at an early date. X.

REVIEWS.

"The Clerical Guide and Churchman's Directory, 1876," edited by C. V. FORSTER BLISS, is a compendious and very complete repertory of the history, past and present, of the Anglican Church in British North America. The names and residences of all its clergy, with notices of their services and standing; Full accounts of the Synod Universities and other Institutions connected with the National Church, the whole arranged in diocese, which follow the order of the date of foundation; An alphabetical list of Priests and Deacons; A list of the succession of Archbishops of Canterbury from St. Augustino; A list of the English Hierarchy of that of the Church in Ireland, Scotland, Colonial, and Missionary Bishops; The Bishops of the Church in the United States; The Church in Hayti and of retired Bishops, Statistics of the Church and a Necrology containing valuable historical information of the great and holy men connected with the Church in Canada who have worthily fulfilled their missions here.

This is a very valuable little volume and reflects great credit on the literary ability as well as the power of condensation and arrangement possessed by the Editor.

It is a much needed addition to the list of Gazetteers and Directories which the literary progress of the age requires and will be a valuable acquisition to the desks and libraries of professional men.