

We are obliged to Captain Riddell, Port Dover Rifles, for a copy of the journal containing an account of the Ball practise of his Company: it is highly creditable to so young a company. If officers generally would send us these reports, we should be enabled to form an interesting record of the practise of the Active Force.

BALL PRACTICE.—We had the pleasure, on Friday, last, of witnessing, for the first time, the practise of the Port Dover Rifle Company under Captain Riddell, and certainly a more orderly and well-disciplined company (for the time of training) could not well be found. The Company was only formed about New Years, and all are therefore not yet fully clothed, nevertheless, twenty-six of the Company marched fully equipped and clothed, to the residence of Mr. R. Mead, where a target was erected, and the shooting took place with the following result, Sergeant Major Shaw making the best shot.

Distance 100 yards. Number of rounds fired, ninety-five—sixty nine hitting the target, after the following manner—

Two rounds file firing	27 hits,
Two " kneeling	24 "
One " lying	18 " —69

Now, when we consider that the day was pretty cold and the muskets (for the company have not yet got their rifles,) rather awkward things to shoot with, this may be considered as excellent shooting, as nearly every bullet would have told on a file of the enemy at the distance. After the target practice, the Company were put through the field exercise by their excellent instructor, Sergeant Major Lovelace, who certainly has every reason to feel proud of the efficiency of the Company. The manoeuvring was performed with extraordinary precision.—We may here state that Mr. Mead, with his accustomed hospitality, provided a bountiful supply of refreshments, which were freely partaken of, not only by the officers and men of the Company, but by the numbers who had assembled to witness the training and target-practice.—Both the officers, men and instructor of the Dover Rifle Company deserve much credit, and we hope soon to have the pleasure of welcoming them on a visit to Simcoe.

INSTRUCTION.—On Tuesday evening last, No. 8 Volunteer Rifle Company, of Montreal, Capt. C. E. Belle, was inspected by Col. Ermatinger, Inspecting Field Officer for Lower Canada, and Lieut. Col. Wily, commanding the Rifle Brigade of Montreal. The company mustered near eighty uniformed men, and the manner in which they performed the various manoeuvres was very creditable to them. Colonel Ermatinger expressed himself much pleased with the progress of the company. The company afterwards paraded through several of the streets, accompanied by M'Person's Band.

The army of General Walker have at length received the blow which must prove their final discomfiture in Nicaragua. After the loss of Castillo by Col. Titus, Col. Lockridge, one of Walker's most energetic officers, attempted to retake it. He and his force sailed up the river in two steamers, the *Scott* and *Rescue*, but he found the Costa Ricans had so fortified the place as to make the attempt fruitless. He therefore abandoned the attack and was on his way back when the steamer *Scott* blew up, killing and wounding fifty of the unfortunate officers and men on board. Lockridge and his surviving followers instead of attending to the sufferings of the wounded took measures for their own flight. The cries of the wounded are represented as being of the most harrowing nature. The

crews of some British men-of-war in that vicinity proved the good Samaritans to the sufferers. The British sent the surgeons of their ships to dress the wounds of the wounded, and also sent wine and every description of refreshments they could require. Further, they offered to convey them with the least possible delay to any port in the United States they might choose to name.

The *Hamilton Banner* relates the circumstance of a young girl dressed in boy's clothes, who called at that office a few days ago, asking for employment as a printer. She is described as very attractive. She writes a beautiful hand, and her composition is said to be very correct. She says she has a happy home and loving parents and friends, but refuses to give any information about them. From all circumstances, the *Banner* is of opinion that she is an accomplished and well bred lady—perhaps of gentle blood. She says her name is "Minnie," but she will give no other clue by which her identity may be traced. She is evidently of unsound mind. We allude to the matter in hopes that her friends may find her and have her properly taken care of.

The *New York Times* has an article on the United States Militia, in which the writer ridicules the attempts of mere rustics or merchants to ape the practice of soldiers of the line, and says:—"Their stiff bearing, their 'lock step,' their shouldered arms, and enormous bands of music, their beplumed and embroidered 'staff,' are all so many weak imitations of something they cannot be anyhow." The *Times* thinks that the only thing a militia force can ever be good for is to act as skirmishers; but that learning the drill of an army is an absurdity and tom-foolery more worthy of boys than grown men.

THE PRINCESS.—On Monday evening last the Field Battery of Artillery under the command of Major Turner and the 2nd Company of Rifles, under the command of Captain Turgeon, turned out, and marched to the Plateau on the Bank of the Canal below the Bridge, when a Royal salute was fired by the Artillery, and three volleys by the Rifles, in honour of the birth of the infant Princess; the Artillery then formed detachments front, having the Rifles on their left and the Rifle band on their right, when the soldiers gave three cheers; the Artillery then ran in their guns, and accompanied the Rifles to their armory in the Market Hall, where the men were dismissed. It was only the second time that the Rifles had fired with ammunition, and the volleys were delivered with great regularity.

Lieut. General Eyre and staff inspected the 9th Regt. stationed at Kingston, on Tuesday morning at ten o'clock, and expressed himself highly gratified with the orderly appearance on parade, and the proficiency in the manoeuvres performed that day, and particularly in their manual and platoon exercises.

He also inspected the books and invalids in the barracks on Monday, and was well pleased with the neatness and correctness everywhere observable.

His Excellency left in the cars for Montreal in the afternoon train.

A paragraph has been inserted in all the leading Provincial papers, to the effect that the Third Regiment of Light Dragoons, under Lt. Colonel Unett are ordered to Canada, and that two steamers have left Liverpool for Canada with the Head Quarters. This paragraph is credited to the *London Times*. We apprehend that there is no truth in it. England is not very strong in cavalry, and all that she has is wanted at home and in India. Moreover, the policy of England, just now, is to keep her Regiments together as it is practicable to do, in large camps for exercise and instruction. We apprehend that this paragraph has arisen from the fact that the Third Dragoon Guards had landed in Liverpool and marched thence to Canterbury to relieve another Regiment ordered to take its term of duty at Aldershot.

THE CANALS.—In answer to Mr. Egan's inquiries, Mr. Cartier and Mr. Lemieux both distinctly stated that it was the intention of the Government to go on with the necessary works for the improvement of the navigation of the Ottawa, that is, the Chats and Chaudiere Canals; and the enlargement of the Grenville & Carillon, and the Locks at St. Anns. They also stated that the Locks would be constructed of much larger size than was previously intended. This is, we suppose, in consequence of Mr. Shanly's Report. This report, though a preliminary one only, is certainly very satisfactory. We publish it elsewhere.

By the *Europe*, at Halifax, we learn that Lord Elgin has at length taken his departure for China. His instructions, we are told, will be to demand that England be put upon terms of equality with Russia at Peking, and that all Chinese ports shall be open to British vessels, when driven by storms, and that three more ports be thrown open to British traffic, in addition to the five named in the former treaty.

The *Burlington (Iowa) State Gazette* say that while some workmen were engaged in excavating for the cellar of Governor Grimes' new building on the corner of Main street, they came upon an arched vault some ten feet square, which, on being opened, was found to contain eight human skeletons of gigantic proportions. The wall of the vault was about fourteen inches thick, well laid up with cement of indestructible mortar. The vault is about six feet from the base of the arch. The skeletons are in a state of preservation.

A FORTUITOUS COMBINATION OF CIRCUMSTANCES.—Messrs. Cobden, Bright, and Gibson were rejected as members to serve in parliament on the anniversary of the declaration of war being made by England and France against Russia, (March 28, 1854); and the public declaration of their rejection was announced by the returning officers on the anniversary of the treaty of peace with Russia being signed in Paris (March 30, 1856.)

The military medal has been granted to a number of non-commissioned officers and privates who either lost limbs or were severely wounded in the Crimean war.—[*London Paper*.]

WHAT has been done for those by whom the limbs were amputated and the wounds were dressed, and by whom thousands of lives were thus saved to their families and their Queen?