

CORRESPONDENCE.

MONTRÉAL, 13th July, 1868.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—I beg leave to enclose a few of the scores made at a rifle match on Saturday last, for a silver cup presented by Capt. Wilson, for annual competition by the members of No. 3 battery 1st Batt. G. T. R. Brigade.

The bowl of the cup is in the form of a rifle bullet, supported on three piled rifles, and on the ornamental base, in the space enclosed by the butts of the pile, is a representation of a field piece unlimbered with a pile of round shot beside it: it is an exquisite piece of silversmith work, and reflects great credit on the designer, as well as the manufacturer, N. S. Walker, Notre Dame street. It becomes the property of the man making the highest score, for two successive years; firing with Snider-Enfields; Hythe position. The winner on this occasion was Sergeant H Simms. The following are the ten highest scores:

	200y.	400y.	600y.	T'l.
Sergt. H. Simms	.43332	23033	30443	.40
Sergt. P. Gleason	33432	23333	33022	.39
Bomb. J.C. Wilson	34434	33333	22002	.39
Sergt. C. Tymonds	33444	43323	22200	.39
Gunner J. Kerr	.23342	04334	02333	.39
Gunner N. Lemieux	33334	23232	43030	.39
Cpl. Jno. McKillip	34433	23430	03222	.38
Sergt. A. Woods	.33423	22432	30023	.36
Gun. F. Sutherland	24023	43332	23022	.35
Gunner C. Clarke	42344	22324	23000	.33

The thermometer during the time of firing indicated 114° at the ranges, which was not conducive to first class shooting.

While on the subject of target practice, it might not be out of place to mention, that the targets at the Point St. Charles ranges are not in very good condition, I have examined them, and found one of the 2nd class targets with three rivets out of the face, and a hole 3" x 1" through the left centre, the other has two rivets out, and a hole through the outer space, 2" diameter; one of the 3rd class targets is in a very bad condition, wanting two rivets, there is also a hole 2½" diameter, and a long slice broken off the right edge, exposing the angle iron backing; the other 3rd class target is in a better condition, but they have all been rendered more or less concave by frequent battering, this has caused some of the joints to be open on the face about ¼"; the present state of the targets render it very embarrassing to the markers to signal correctly, as several of the bullets go through without touching the target, those in authority should look to this, and also further encourage rifle practice by putting up dummy targets and supplying discs, which could be done at a nominal cost; a few more 2nd and 3rd class targets, with at least one long range are very badly wanted, as the four targets at present on the ranges, are not in proportion to the requirements of the force in Montréal.

Immediately after the match had taken place Mr. J. J. Meyer made his appearance with his portable field piece, a description of which has appeared in your columns. Mr. Meyer has on a former occasion succeeded in firing 55 shots in 33 seconds with this

gun. It was with the intention of bringing it more prominently before the public, that he held a match for all comers on Saturday; 5 shots each at 400 yards, one minute being allowed for sighting and firing; a Mr. Foster succeeded in making four bull's eyes and a centre. Mr. M. then removed it to the six hundred yards firing point, when several ladies took an opportunity of trying their skill as "markswomen," the little gun behaved very gallantly, putting them at the head of the score, bull's eyes and centres being made by them in profusion. During the afternoon there was about 400 rounds fired without cleaning the inside of the bore. The inventor guarantees that a battery of ten of his guns, attended each by two boys, could throw such a terrific storm of leaden hail, as to annihilate in a short time a whole battalion of soldiers armed with the most approved single breech-loaders.

Yours, &c.,

CHEZIK.

QUÉBEC, 9th July, 1868.

To the Editor of THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW.

SIR,—Permit me a few words on the subject of the articles by Capt. Dartnell, whose communications have, no doubt, been perused by most of your readers, with as much pleasure as they have by the present writer.

Whilst our own system, detailed in the red book, especially all before brigade movement, though of course needing revision from time to time as the requirements of the day demand—are wonderfully good and efficient, and far simpler and superior to the French tactics taught in their drill book, which are, with slight change copied and adopted in the United States armies, still it must be admitted by everyone that there is much to be learnt by studying other systems, and especially does it behoove us to understand the tactics of the forces, which in a war would be opposed to us. *Fas est et ab hoste doceri.*

Your correspondent is not altogether accurate in saying that there is no provision in our drill book for diminishing the intervals between skirmishers. It is quite true that the book does not lay down the precise movements and words of command by which this is to be effected with the same minuteness as it does (Part V., S. 1., par. 3) for increasing the intervals, nevertheless the reverse manoeuvre is distinctly alluded to at S. 6, referring to the passing of obstacles in skirmishing order and at S. 15, referring to the reinforcing a line of skirmishers; and even without this allusion the way to execute it is implied, for the book does (Part V., S. 2) with great exactness specify the manner of closing, and surely skirmishers, after being taught how to close completely on any named file, can be at no loss about closing a part of the distance.

The mode of skirmishing explained in the last Review, 6th July, does not appear to possess the greatest of all recommendations for light infantry movements, viz. simplicity and quickness; and the plan of skirmishing in single rank appears to me, though not being a soldier by profession and never having been in action, I speak with all deference to the opinion of men of actual experience, to labor under two serious defects.

1st. It does away with the moral force and material aid of companionship. An individual

man in a single rank of skirmishers, separated by several paces from the men on either side of him, cannot have the same heart nor act with the same confidence and energy as he would when sure of the support and sympathy of a trusty comrade close by him.

2nd. It has not sufficient strength. A single rank of skirmishers must be very weak, and whenever a man falls there must be too great an interval left between the two next, this distance must either be diminished by the outer skirmisher closing inwards and the front of the line necessarily lessened, or fresh men must be drawn from the support which would then be rapidly exhausted; whereas in two ranks it is not probable, however hot might be the fire, that both men of the same file would be often hit; and when one falls there is still another to stop the gap.

Blackwood's Magazine for March, 1859 contains an interesting article on "Châlons—The Camp," and in it will be found a description of French drill and their mode of skirmishing in single rank with fixed bayonets and rallying by fours to resist cavalry, which may with advantage be compared with the method described by Capt. Dartnell.

These remarks are offered, not from any strong belief in their value, but with the hope that they may lead to fuller discussion of this important subject in your valuable journal and that some writer may be induced to come forward who can wield both sword and pen; and in this hope I have no doubt I shall be joined by Capt. Dartnell, whom I beg to thank for some very useful and agreeable reading.

I remain, Mr. Editor,
Your very ob't. servant,
LAMBDA.

BATTALION CORRESPONDENCE

FROM RICHMOND HILL.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Oak Ridges Cavalry Troop completed its annual drill here about ten days ago, under the command and instruction of Lt. Col. MacLeod, and was inspected by Lt. Col. Dennis, B.M., on Monday, the 29th ult., in a field adjoining this village. The troop turned out in its full strength, 35 men and two officers, Lt. Baldwin not being able to be present in consequence of a severe accident to his bridle arm. Col. Dennis arrived about four p.m., having come across from Markham village, where he had been inspecting the Markham Troop, under the command of Major Button, and which form a Second Troop, of the York Squadron. On the inspecting officer's arrival on the ground he was received with a general salute, and proceeded to a minute inspection of the clothing, arms and accoutrements which proved entirely satisfactory. On his retiring to the passing line, the troop having been previously told off as a squadron, marched past, it then passed in column of troops, trotted past by troops, and ranked past by sections, on reforming on the parade line it performed the sword exercise, and pursuing practice, it then went through several field movements, and at Col. Dennis' request was dismounted, linked horses, and skirmished on foot, one troop skirmishing,