

FROM MONTREAL.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

The Militia authorities acted wisely in ignoring the requests of several over zealous French companies to turn out and give a military reception to the Papal Zouaves on their return after bloodless devotion to the head of their church. No one doubts the religious enthusiasm that would take them so far away from home to peril limb and life in defence of his Holiness, but the departure of these cadets, many fresh from Military School training, excited many to express their opinion of the illegality of the enlistment, after their having taken the oath of allegiance and fidelity to the government, and to give them a public military reception would only further complicate the expressions of those who require enlightenment in the matter of allegiance. However, we of all creeds heartily unite in welcoming them safe back again to the cheerful circle of home, with its attractions and endearments which they will now doubly prize after the privations they must have undergone in the Holy City. Maybe the rough edge has been taken off many of them and they will be the better citizens for that, at all events, as Canadians, we welcome them home to their native country, and may they never draw but in its defence and glory.

It is announced here positively that the Military School will be closed here as soon after the first of May as practicable. In the meantime, those cadets now in the School are being hurried to perfection as quickly as possible.

Laxity in military discipline, among the Volunteers, has been more the rule than the exception, leading to insubordination in the ranks, which has been more generally overlooked than punished by the commanding officer. This is wrong, an officer loses no esteem or confidence with his men by being strict when on duty, on the contrary he wins their respect and has the thanks of all well ordered men in the regiment. A little firmness saves a world of trouble. A certain captain of light infantry in this city deserves credit for the public manner with which he expressed his disapprobation of a certain unruly member of his company, calling him to the front, stripping him of his clothing there and then, and dismissing him as a man unfit to don the garb of a soldier.

A few such officers are needed to rid the service of many loafers and incorrigibles who do the service an injury, contaminating others and drawing discredit on the whole force. I can lay my hands at any moment on several commanding officers in this city who are almost idolized by their men, and yet are even stricter and harsher on drill than one might deem necessary. Where lies Capt. L——'s secret in wiring into country bumpkins, noddle-heads, and counter boobies the various movements, marches and countermarches necessary to enable

them to become honorable gentlemen and officers of Her Majesty's militia.

A young and popular member of the Brigade Staff of this city will shortly lead to the hymenal altar the accomplished and charming daughter of one of our oldest and wealthiest French families. The intended bridegroom is gifted with that polish and bearing that commands so much respect and is so much admired in polite society, and the event, which will be one of great *clat*, is anticipated with impatience by the upper ton.

The Militia Department will now soon be ensconced in their new quarters, and it may be *apropos* to mention at the same time that Montreal seems to be specially favoured with an efficient and courteous staff. The gentlemen of the Brigade Office here are certainly *distingue* for their urbanity and kindness of disposition, and there is little of that gruffness and conceit so much in vogue amongst military individuals.

It is pleasure to do this justice to those gentlemen, who are deserving of every credit for the manner they transact the important business that entails itself upon them.

The Montagnards light infantry are now drilling three times a week preparatory to their inspection on Good Friday by Colonel D'Orsennes; they will be able to give a good account of themselves.

The Volunteers here are very anxious for the march to Red River; an announcement to get ready would cause the greatest enthusiasm. Every regiment thinks and hopes it may be favored, and many hundreds would volunteer to remain as settlers after peace has been restored to the country.

I notice the Moncrieff gun carriage, the action of which is on the same principle as that of a rocking horse, has recently been tried in England with 12-ton guns, and is found to answer as well as with guns of a lighter weight. It was asserted that, however applicable the principle might be to light pieces it would not do for heavy siege guns, but the trials have shown this view to be incorrect. By the Moncrieff system guns and men are out of sight and below the level of the parapet while loading, and only visible during the short time occupied in firing.

What about the steel battery, and how for Red River. B.

NOTES AND QUERIES.

BY G. W.

It would be difficult to strike an analogy more true than that the loss of the colonies would rapidly sink England to the condition of Holland. Very little study of the history of the United Provinces will prove this. Not without a gallant struggle, indeed, did Holland succumb to the ocean supremacy of England, but the result was inevitable. Let England deal with her colonies, in the

light of the accumulated experience of a hundred years, like a mother who compels the love, the admiration, the chivalrous devotion of her stalwart sons by her unselfish generosity and nobility of soul, and the great American States, mighty as they will probably be in the future, may seek in vain to wrest from her the prestige of "those lion spirits that tread the deck (and) have carried the palm of the brave."

MILITARY SCHOOLS.

An article appeared in the *Telegraph* of the 24th March, on the Military Schools purporting to quote figures from the annual Militia Report, to the effect that the gratuities, clothing, mileage and books to 5,569 Cadets have amounted, since the establishment of the Schools, to \$381,973.

This sum is no doubt large, but I dare say there are few of the *Telegraph's* subscribers who, in reading the statement, pause to consider that the Infantry School has been in operation for six years.

The *Telegraph* then proceeds to the cool assertion "we are satisfied" that the other expenses, such as pay to Adjutants and Drill Instructors, rent of offices, &c., will make the amount expended up to over a million.

The *Telegraph* is very green if it imagines that the public is to be cajoled into an economic howl as easily as it can succeed in hoodwinking its own eyes where its conclusions are foregone.

It is well known that the gratuities, &c. constitute by far the largest portion of the expense of the Schools. These amount to \$381,973, and the *Telegraph* does not blush to solicit the credence of its readers to the monstrous assumption that the remaining expenses have amounted to \$618,027!!!

In all probability the whole expenditure has not exceeded half a million, which, spread over a period of six years, is not so astounding an item.

I am far from defending the management of the Schools, having long ago foreseen, from what came under my personal knowledge of them, the precise points on which they would prove obnoxious to public censure. The evil is the indiscriminate admission of city loafers and boys, and the blame I conceive to rest with those who are in any way responsible for the *bona fide* nature of the applications for entry, i.e., that they are really such as will benefit the service.

If the Schools are to be allowed to redeem their character, the city and adjacent county entries should be strictly limited to a due proportion to those from other places. It should be made known that only a certain number will be accepted from each county, and I would open the schools only for two terms in the year of three months each, so arranged as to suit the agricultural as well as the city population.

If admission were a little harder to obtain I am inclined to think there would be more eagerness to seek its advantages—