

offence has passed away from their minds, or the officer has stopped out, leaving the limits, and thus ending the business at his own convenience, and in his own way. Or take the case of another company, when the same offence has been committed, and the Captain makes no report about it at all. How can discipline be maintained in a Regiment when men see such offences committed with impunity by officers. I do believe then, it would be for the advantage of the Volunteer Militia, that Commanding Officers should at all times have power to arrest any officer guilty of wilful neglect of duty, or who was reported to him for violating any of the rules and articles of war, which would leave him liable to the penalty of a Court-Martial, and that pending any inquiry upon such report, the officer arrested should not be allowed to appear upon any parade with his company, or be allowed to wear either sword or uniform. That this power might be liable to abuse is true, but when the Commanding Officer knows, that he too is liable if he abuses his authority, he will be very careful how he exercises it. Without this power, however, a proper spirit of discipline cannot be maintained in any Regiment; if when talking, and entreating, writing and beseeching, all fail, other means, I hold, should be at this officer's disposal. Next, he should certify that the duties of all the officers have been fairly performed before any annual grant is made to any company. No pay should be issued to either Regimental or Company Instructors till the Commanding Officer's certificate shows that the company has made some reasonable progress in drill since the time it was last inspected, and the grant fairly earned. Otherwise, or without this certificate, there is no distinction made between the qualified man, who has went to the expense and taken the trouble to learn what his duties are, and who does them, and the ignorant, or careless man; they are both on a par, and treated equally alike, one gets just as much money as the other, and just as soon. Next, Commanding Officers should in certain cases, and within certain limits, have the power and jurisdiction of Magistrates. It often happens that the Captain or other officer commanding a company, wishes, as an example to punish a man for insolence on drill, for disobedience of orders, for continued absence from drill, or some of the many other offences, for which under the Militia Law a man is liable to be brought before a Magistrate. Justices of the Peace, as a rule, do not care to meddle with Militia matters, often from a belief that they have no authority to act, often from a feeling of sympathy with the party complained against, often from a spirit of animosity to the officer complaining. These are cases which I believe should be adjudicated upon by the Commanding Officer, instead of the Captain having first to lodge the costs of the suit, next swear an information, and get out a summons, next subpoena witnesses, finally,

after a loss of three or four days time, hear the defendant dismissed with a caution, and find himself left in for the costs. Then he should have all the officers, and the non-commissioned officers, meet at Regimental Headquarters, for eight days in some one year, (this present would be the best) previous to the time the annual Battalion drill would be begun by his Regiment, and for this time both ranks should receive their pay and allowance. A week's skeleton drill and instructions upon interior economy would be a capital foundation for beginning the Battalion drill with, besides giving each individual some practical knowledge of his place and duty before the advent and drill of the men. Here then are powers, and a privilege, which I believe should be held by all Commanding Officers, and here next, is a short resume of the duties which he is supposed to do when not on active service, and what it costs him to do them. He should visit, if in the country, all the companies of his Battalion twice in the year at least, and take nearly or wholly a day with each. He should see for himself, what is known by officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, and what is the actual state of the company, for anything more than the ordinary routine of an inspection parade. He should get acquainted with men and officers, and by his advice and presence, encourage the attendance of both. He should correct any irregularities among the officers, and try to smooth over any little difficulties that at times exist among Battalions, that he, in his way, is trying to do what he looks for officers and men to do in theirs, viz.: for all to become proficient in the duties which they have assumed, for all to be at home; good and sober men, taking pride in preparing themselves to show in the field that they are loyal soldiers to their Queen and country. By this means, and *esprit du corps* will be got up, which all should endeavor to foster, which should be the special care of the Commanding Officer; and to encourage which, he should be enabled to command the support of all his subordinates if necessary. He should also be in a position to insist upon all his officers having the qualification necessary and appointments suitable to their rank, and to aid him, and each other, when not on duty, in all those numberless little things which go so far towards keeping up a good working spirit in a Regiment. Then his office duties have to be attended to, and they are no trifle. Correspondence with Company Commanders, with Brigade Majors, with District Quartermasters and Paymasters, not to speak of the incidental letters connected with Regimental matters, take on up an average one day in the week, besides a proportionate amount of stationery. 'Tis true, the Regimental Instructor is supposed to aid in this business, but with the exception of target practice returns, and Regimental orders, there are few others which can be delegated to him.

Now, as the officer's

the field, is in exact proportion to its state and discipline out of it, and as so much depends upon the Commanding officers, have we not a right to demand, that these responsible men should be well qualified for their very responsible position? Certainly, and we do all hope that neither politics or partiality will be the rule, but that the Adjutant General himself will see to those who hold the command of Volunteer Battalions. But as the position and its duties involve the loss of a good deal of time, as well as the expenditure of a very considerable amount of money, let us see how are officers of this grade remunerated. Before doing so, let us look first at what it costs a Lieutenant-Colonel to prepare himself to appear upon a parade with his regiment, and next what is the yearly outlay entailed upon him by his rank. His uniform, accoutrements, and horse equipments cost him from \$175 to \$250; his yearly subscription to band fund, mess fund, his outlay for postage and stationery, at least \$100 a year; his travelling expenses, hotel bills, &c., when on his Regimental Inspection, at least \$50 per year more; his subscription to the Regimental Shooting Match, a special prize now and then to a Company Match, a few tickets now and then to a Volunteer Concert, will put a big hole in another fifty. Here you have then a regular outlay as certain as your house rent, of from \$150 to \$250 over and above your first plump sum for uniform &c. Now, in the words of the private Volunteer, when detailing what it cost him to soldier, "What does a grateful country give for all this?" As the answer in his case was "the loan of a great coat, &c.," the answer in the officers case is the privilege of now and then calling yourself a d—d fool, and hearing your own opinion of yourself, strongly endorsed by your neighbors. For save and except three dollars a year for each company in the Battalion away from Headquarters, promised last year for postage, Commanding Officers do not receive one cent to cover their expenses. Now take an example or two from some other classes of the servants of the public, whose duties were assumed voluntarily, from whom no test of capability is required, and whose whole time is not taken up by their official duties, more than ours. Look for instance at Cabinet Ministers, they meet at Ottawa for three or four months in the year, upon public business, for the remaining eight or nine months they are at home attending to their own private affairs, and if now and then a special meeting has to be attended at the seat of Government, a special train is at their disposal. These gentlemen don't travel at their own expenses upon public business, and their five thousand dollars a year is drawn with scrupulous regularity. Or take the members of Parliament, those long suffering and patriotic individuals, who like the service of the country so well, and who are so devoted to its interests.